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JIMMY GREAVES FOR AUSTRALIA?

McKay State coach

Former Scottish international Duncan McKay has been appointed coach of the Victorian State team.

Victoria will meet Derby County and the Bobby Charlton All-Stars in May, and Hajduk Split in July.

McKay's appointment as State coach comes only two weeks after he was sacked as coach of State League club Essendon-Croatia.

He played 13 games for Scotland and more than 200 for Glasgow Celtic before coming to Melbourne to join the now defunct Croatia club in 1965.

Together with Billy Votek, Jimmy Mackey, Horst Rau, Hugh Gunn, Frank Bot, Hammy McMeachen, Bill McIntyre and Brian Adams, he was one of the stalwarts of the great Croatia team that won the 1968 championship, Dockerty Cup and Ampol Cup.

From 1972 to 1974 he was back in Scotland, helping coach Celtic's third team.

He returned to Australia in 1974 to coach Azzurri in Perth.

As State coach, McKay succeeds Ron Smith, who has quit his job as Victorian Director of Coaching and returned to England.



A pictorial tribute to Mike O'Hara whose flamboyance has made him one of the institutions of Victorian soccer.

Jimmy Greaves, the great forward who represented England 57 times, wants to play in Australia.

Greaves, 38, has sent a telegramme to the Phillips Soccer League, whose season kicks off on Saturday, offering his services to any club that wants him.

The former Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur striker was top scorer in the English First Division six times — 1958-59, 1960-61, 1962-63, 1963-64, 1964-65 and 1968-69.

His highest total for a season was 41 in 1960-61.

Greaves has lately been playing for Dartford in the English Southern League.

He has told the PSL he is available to play in Australia for at least 12 months.

Another famous English player, **Charlie Cooke** of Chelsea, may also come to Australia.

South Melbourne Hellas president **Sam Pappasavas** telephoned Cooke last week, when he heard that the Scottish international had been put on Chelsea's free transfer list.

However, the Los Angeles Aztecs have also contacted him.

Cooke, once a winger and now a midfielder, has represented Scotland 16 times and played about 300 games for Chelsea.

He has also played for Crystal Palace and in Scotland for Aberdeen and Dundee.



Jimmy Greaves

Fairbrother may take legal action

A legal battle looms over the transfer of Barrie Fairbrother from Mooroolbark to Brisbane Lions.

However, Fairbrother will be available for Lions' opening PSL game against Marconi in Brisbane on Sunday.

The drama started last week after the Executive of the Australian Soccer Federation reversed a decision by the Appeals Board which gave Fairbrother a free transfer to Lions.

When Fairbrother heard the news that he had a \$10,000 price tag on him after having been a free player two days before, he said:

"There is no way Mooroolbark will

get one cent for me. I'll stand out of soccer rather than see the club get any money from my transfer."

Lions secured Fairbrother by paying a transfer fee into a trust fund set up by the ASF which will hold all money paid to Mooroolbark for players. The money will be used to pay Mooroolbark's debts.

However, Fairbrother is going to appeal against the ASF Executive decision and, if necessary, take legal action so he can transfer for free.

Continued page 14

O'Hara on show at St. Albans

State goalkeeper **Mike O'Hara** of Hakoah has signed for Footscray J.U.S.T. to replace **Dennis Boland** who has yellow fever and will be out for at least two months.

J.U.S.T. paid Hakoah \$3000 and also signed over its forward, **Steve Adamalikis**.

O'Hara will play for J.U.S.T. against Green Gully Ajax at Green Gully Reserve, St Albans, in a practice match tonight (Wednesday) at 6.30 pm.

Fitzroy Alexander and Essendon

Croatia had also been negotiating to sign O'Hara.

However, Alexander had been scared away by Hakoah's initial asking price of \$6000.

O'Hara first joined Hakoah in the mid-sixties and had a spell with Slavia before returning to Hakoah.

He represented Victoria against Roma of Italy in the sixties and against Middlesbrough of England last year.

Determined to join a national league club this year, O'Hara told Hakoah he would not play at all if the club did not release him.

Indeed, he had been coaching Fourth Division team Mornington for the past few weeks.

With the Phillips League season starting with a game against Adelaide Juventus in Adelaide on Sunday, J.U.S.T. coach **Cedo Clirkovic** became desperate for a top-class goalkeeper when Boland fell ill.

O'Hara did not play in J.U.S.T.'s practice match against Melbourne last Sunday.

J.U.S.T. won the game 4-1 with two goals by **Mendo Ristovski** and one each



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\$15,000 at stake in Philips Cup

The proposed Australia-wide Cup for the Philips Trophy is certain to go ahead now that Victoria and NSW have said they will participate.

Both States had earlier been hostile towards the competition.

Victoria told the ASF its clubs would take part providing the sponsors put up prize money.

NSW's attitude had earlier been that it would not participate because the PSL clubs had refused to take part in the NSW Ampol Cup.

However, NSW has now decided to recommend to its leading clubs that they take part in the series.

The Cup would be contested by the 14 Philips League clubs, four clubs from Sydney, four from Melbourne, three from Adelaide, three from Brisbane and one each from Western Australia, Tasmania, ACT and Northern NSW.

Prizemoney will be about \$15,000.

MY \$15,000 PRICE RIDICULOUS: BELL

South Melbourne Hellas has made a bid for transfer-listed Sydney Olympic centre back Richie Bell.

However, if Bell leaves Olympic it will be to another Sydney Philips League club.

"I recently started working as an optometrist," said Bell, "after graduating last year. I can't leave Sydney because I'm about to go into a business partnership."

The Soccerroo defender was put on the list at his own request because of personal differences with coach Tom Anderson.

The trouble came to a head last week when Olympic players were due for a photographic session.

Bell was delayed because he had two patients who urgently needed attention. As a result, he was an hour late for the session.

"Tom was upset and told me off, saying I would be fined or would not go to Melbourne for the Hellas game that weekend," said Bell.

Anderson didn't take Bell to Melbourne.

"I didn't think it was fair that Tom blasted me before I had the chance to explain the situation," said Richie.

On the list after clash with coach

reconsider and play with the club.

"If I haven't found a new club by the second or third week of the P.S.L. program," said Bell, "then I will reconcile with the club."

"Playing soccer under a strain is better than not playing soccer at all."

Bell has been with Olympic for seven years and has played more than 150 games. He was club captain last year but has been replaced as skipper by Dave McIntosh.

"The club has been

good to me," said Bell, "but I'm not satisfied that I could get what I want from soccer at Olympic."

Bell has been playing below his best lately and on top of that the club recently bought defender Paul Cotton from St. George.

Cotton's arrival made it even harder for Bell to win a spot in the team.

Hopefully Bell will be able to find a new club quickly or settle down at Olympic, as he is too talented to sit on the sidelines.

—KYLE PATTERSON



Richie Bell

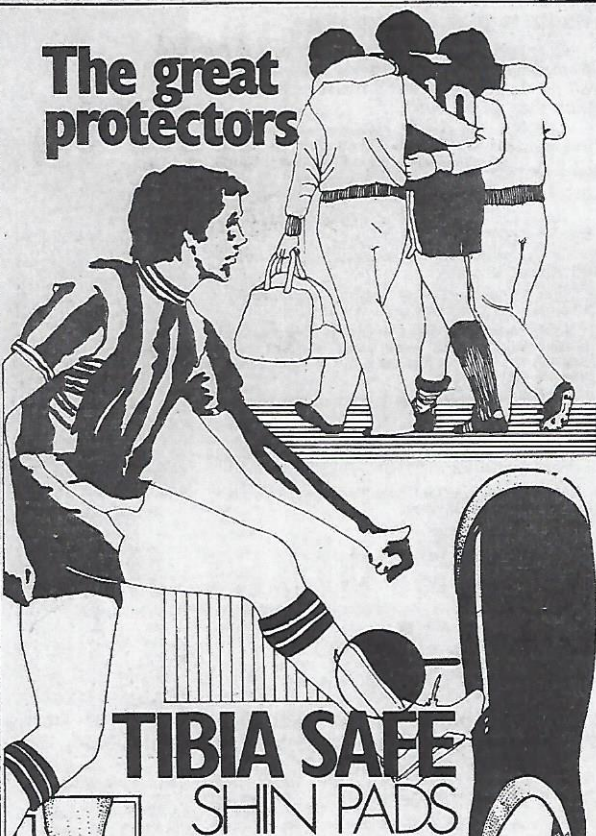
Makedonians get together

The Victorian Makedonian community will have a picnic at Makedonia Park, King Lake, on Sunday, March 5.

All supporters of Preston-Makedonia are welcome.

The picnic starts at 8 am and goes all day. Usually, about 5000 people attend.

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Canberra City is selling its PSL matches to sponsors.

The first, against West Adelaide Hellas at the new Bruce Stadium on Sunday, has been sold to Readymix Concrete.

In return for an undisclosed fee paid by the company to the club, Readymix will have its name mentioned in all

pre-match publicity and will have a full-page advertisement in the club's magazine.

Readymix employees will get free tickets to the game and Readymix trucks will probably be parked outside the ground, displaying the

name of the company.

The second home match, against Adelaide Juventus, the following week, has been sold to TAA.

Canberra expects to make about \$20,000 this year on the "sale" of matches.

35 refs named for World Cup

ZURICH — The International Football Federation (FIFA) has named 35 referees who will be invited to supervise play at the final series of games in the World Cup in Argentina from June 1 to 25 this year.

FIFA said the men, invited to act as referees and linesmen, would be designated for individual matches for the first final round on May 30 and the decisions will be made public at the pre-World Cup conference with heads of delegations on May 31 in Buenos Aires.

The referees were nominated by FIFA's referees committee, meeting here under Dr. Artemio Franchi of Italy.

The nominated referees are:

Angel Coerezza

(Argentina), Erich Linemayr (Austria), Francis Rion (Belgium), Arnold Coelho (Brazil), Werner Winsemann (Canada), Juan Silvagno (Chile), Patrick Partridge (England), Gebreyesus Testay (Ethiopia), Robert Wurtz (France), Adolf Prokop (East Germany), Ferdinand Bliwerel (West Germany), Karoly Palotai (Hungary), Jafar Namdar (Iran), Abraham Klein (Israel), Sergio Gonella (Italy), Alfonso Archundia (Mexico), Charles Corver (Netherlands), Cesar Orozco (Peru), Alojzy

Jarguz (Poland), Antonio Jose de Silva Garrido (Portugal), Nicolae Raines (Romania), John Gordon (Scotland), Youssou N'Diaye (Senegal), Angel Franco Martinez (Spain), Ulf Eriksson (Sweden), Jean Dubach (Switzerland), Farouk Bouzo (Syria), Hedi Seoudi (Tunisia), Ramon Barreto Ruiz (Uruguay), Anatoli Ivanov (Soviet Union), Clive Thomas (Wales), Dusan Maksimovic (Yugoslavia), and three Argentinian referees who will act only as linesmen: Miguel Comesana, Arturo Ithurralde and Luis Pestarino.

The referees' committee also named six for its reserve list: Franz Woehrer (Austria), Alfred Delcourt (Belgium), Romualdo Arppi Filho (Brazil), Michel Kitabdjian (France), Heinz Aldinger (West Germany), and Alberto Michelotti (Italy).

Five Barkers join Knox

Knox City has started a determined push towards the Victorian First Division by signing seven new players.

Five are from Mooroolbark — Derek Bailey, Mike Shut-tleworth, Steve Pongho, Eugene McConville, and Ricky van Duppen.

The other, Steve Hibbett, is from Croydon. Meanwhile, Knox has lost Colin Waller who has retired, and Frank Butt who is going back to England.

Alan Jackson has been reappointed coach.

The new professional attitude of the club was brought home strongly by the suspension of star player John Howarth for non-training.

Knox will continue playing at H.V. Jones Reserve in Ferntree Gully, but work is under way on a new ground and club rooms in Riddell Road, Knox.

About \$150,000 is being spent there, and the ground will be ready next



Derek Bailey

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YEAR F BOZIKAS



Andrew Bozikas — the man to watch.

Promotion - relegation talks sought

By LAURIE SCHWAB

The Victorian Metropolitan Leagues is seeking talks aimed partly at changing the State League promotion-relegation system.

It has written to the president of the VSF, the vice-presidents, the chairman of the board and the delegates to the State League management committee.

It seeks an early meeting, controlled by an independent chairman, possibly the president of the VSF. Other matters to be discussed include voting rights at annual meetings, the chairman's vote and the constitution of the VSF board.

The Metropolitan League has long been pushing to have two teams promoted to the State League instead of one. It has also been seeking to change the voting structure whereby every State League club has four votes, whereas Metropolitan League clubs have one vote each at VSF annual meetings.

The meeting suggested by the Metro League is long overdue. It presents the opportunity to discuss all areas of grievance in surroundings that are much more amicable than the annual meeting.

A good solution to the promotion dilemma has been put forward by, among others, the president of Green Gully Ajax, Guy Spiller.

He suggests the State League be increased to 14 clubs, and then closed for a period of two or three years, to allow those clubs to establish themselves.

After the closed period, promotion and relegation would resume, on a two up, two down basis.

This should be acceptable to everyone. Clubs would be promoted throughout the ranks to fill the vacancies created by two clubs moving up to State League.

Alternatively, says Spiller, the extra two State League clubs could be provided by country areas.

They could be representative teams from those areas, and the players comprising those teams could be free to play for his own clubs in their own country leagues, as well as for the representative team in the State League.

This suggestion has much merit. Other VSF officials have long been saying that the State League should be just that — a league representative of Victoria, not only of Melbourne.

The 1978 Philips League season which kicks off on the weekend will see the emergence of new stars — players who have been around, but who haven't yet captured the public's imagination the way they will this year.

Heading this exclusive list is Fitzroy-Alexander's attacking player Andrew Bozikas.

This exciting, skilful speedster joined Alexander a few years ago from South Melbourne Hellas, which must be regretting its decision to let him go.

Bozikas has a real soccer flair, he can outplay opponents man-to-man and he has an uncanny understanding with forward Branko Buljevic.

Another player who will catch the eye this year is Mark Jankovic, the young forward Marconi bought from St. George early this year.

Jankovic has been in the national squad but was not retained for long enough to show what he can do. This year he's determined to give his very best.

Phil O'Connor joined St. George from Wollongong last year with a big reputation but showed his real talent only in patches.

After that initial settling-in season, O'Connor will be the terror of defences this year. He knows he has to show his best to fight off challenges from other St. George players, including the African-born striker Francisco Jose Maria, from Portuguese Club Porto, who'll be another star in the PSL.

Olympic has two players who'll get rave notices this year. They are young midfielder Alex Jamieson and of course goalkeeper Gary Meler who is knocking on the door of the national squad.

Ian McGregor of West Adelaide Hellas is another player in line for a spot in the national squad, but Hellas will also have stars in new signings Uros Zivkovic and Vic Bozanic.

Centre backs who will be prominent are tall, blond Peter Tokesi of Brisbane City and of course Canberra's captain Tony Henderson, who was starting to make quite a name for himself towards the end of last season.

Canberra has another budding star in young Milovanovic, and midfielder John Davies should set the league alight if all goes well with his transfer from Croatia Sydney.

Danish international goalkeeper John Hansen is sure to be a star with South Melbourne Hellas, and J.U.S.T.'s Mendo Ristovski and Joe Piccone must firmly establish themselves this year if they are to realise their enormous potential.

At the start of any season, one inevitably speculates on which teams are the favorites. I would have to go for the ones that are already firmly established.

Apart from 1977 champion Hakoah, which is in the running once more, other favorites would have to include Marconi and Adelaide Juventus.

These three have team balance and professional status.

Hakoah has been strengthened by the addition of Ernie Campbell and the impending arrival of Manecas from Portugal.

Marconi has added Mark Jankovic and Roberto Vieri.

Juventus has been experimenting wisely, and if the midfield trio of Marconi, Perin and Muniz reach top form, they could dictate play in most of their games.

Alexander will shake up many opponents due to its all-round ability and would also have to be regarded as a title contender.

The same goes for West Adelaide Hellas, under new coach John Margaritis who did so well with Alexander last year.

I have a soft spot for Footscray J.U.S.T. not only because I played and coached there, but because of the style of football the team plays.

This is the style which I would like to see dominating Australian football in the future.

South Melbourne Hellas, under new coach Dave MacLaren, has made a wise move in signing Bertie Luton, who has always had my admiration.

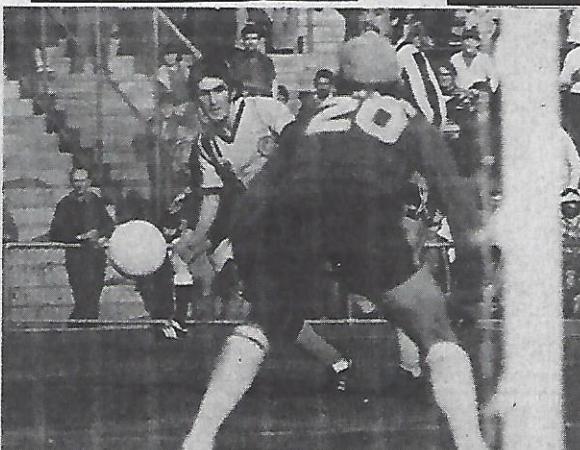
Also, we have been promised a "different" Peter Ollerton, which means Hellas will be a threat to all the other teams in the league.

Olympic and St. George both spent a lot of time and hard work during the off-season in a determined attempt to improve their status.

...and Hakoah, Marconi or Juve for title



RALE RASIC



Andrew Bozikas scores against Adelaide Juventus goalkeeper Peter Marshall.

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Marconi's new signing, Mark Jankovic.



Harry Williams and Dave Harding (right) training in Hamburg before Australia's game against East Germany in 1974.



Australia and Iran line up for their World Cup match in Melbourne last year. The Australians are, from right: Shoulder (coach), Rooney, Harding, Nyskohus, Williams, Kosmina, Barnes, Harris, Ollerton, Bennett, Maher, Wilson.

HARRY WILL BE THERE IN '82

By KYLE PATTERSON

1977 was a season of extremes for Harry Williams.

One moment he was playing against giants Red Star, Celtic and Arsenal in the World of Soccer tournament as Australia held its own with the cream of European soccer.

The next he faced a barrage of criticism along with the rest of the Soc-

ceroo team as Australia tumbled out of the World Cup.

Why did Australia fail in the World Cup after playing so well in World of Soccer series? The 26-year-old St. George and Australia full-back can't pinpoint the answer.

"The team seemed to freeze in the World Cup games," said Harry.

"In the World of Soccer games," he continues, "we were the underdogs and no-one expected much from us, but we proved we were capable of playing top soccer. When it came to the World Cup games everyone expected results, but we couldn't reproduce the form."

Maybe the W of S tournament wasn't the right sort of build-up for do-or-die World Cup games but Williams disagrees.

"The tournament helped us tremendously and we played some really good football," said Harry.

Melbourne-based fans who saw the Iran game at Olympic Park will have bitter memories of Dave Harding's penalty miss.

"I felt for Dave more than anyone else," said Harry. "Soccer is a team game," he said, "and it is wrong to blame one player for a defeat."

"I felt sorry for Jimmy Shoulder," continues Harry, "because once the team is on the park there is nothing a coach can do. It's up to the players. However, Jimmy got a lot of the blame."

Williams was first selected in an Australian squad in 1970 when he was 19. Before his selection he had played only six games in the St. George first team.

"Everything happened so quickly," he said. "I thought I was doing well getting into the St. George team, then Rale Rasic called me up for the Asian tour squad. I was stunned!"

Harry didn't play any major games on that tour, but Rasic must have seen that Williams had the potential to be a great player.

Harry made his big-game debut four years later against Indonesia in a trial game on the way to the World Cup finals in West Germany.

Williams went on to play in the finals for Australia against Chile, coming on as a substitute for Col Curran 20 minutes from the end.

Harry will be 30 when the 1982 finals come along.

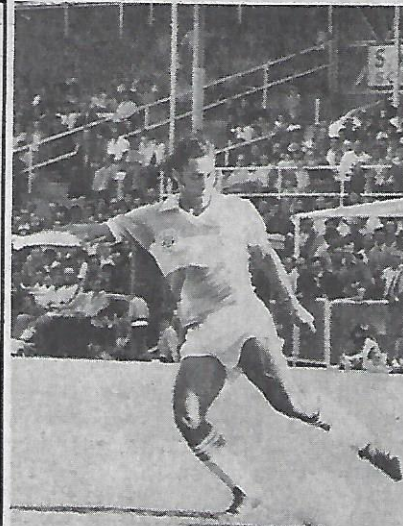
"I'll still be playing in '82," he said, "but only time will tell if I'm still in the national team."

"I'm not thinking that far ahead," he continues. "My aim now is to help St. George up the table. We have a very young team, and as one of the older players I'll have to guide the youngsters."

In Williams, St. George has the right man for such a task.



Harry Williams



Hakoah's Brazilian winger Hilton Silva

Newcastle hopes for fairy-tale victory!

NEWCASTLE K.B. UNITED v. HAKOAH-EASTS at International Sports Centre, Newcastle, Sunday, 2.30 pm.

According to Ray Baartz himself, Newcastle forward Slav Catalovski, signed from Austrels, is one of the players to watch in the PSL this year.

He's fast, skilful and he scores goals. Of course he'll get a lot of help from Baartz who'll have a midfield attacking role, and from winger Lloyd Hardes, who was on loan to Western Suburbs last season.

Other local players are defender John Sneddon, who was Newcastle player of the year while with West Wallsend last year, and Wallsend striker Neil Endacott.

Don Smith from Croatia Sydney will be in goal, but there's still doubt over international full back Col Curran.

Curran, born and bred in Newcastle, wanted to return home to play for the new PSL club, but Western Suburbs set a transfer fee which United is apparently unable to pay.

Negotiations have been continuing during the week. Hopefully the problem will be resolved before the first game.

Incidentally, if non-Novocastrians are wondering what the initials KB are doing after the club's name, they represent KB beer, a product of Tooth brewers, who are sponsoring the club for \$105,000 over three years.

Getting back to the players, half of them are imports from overseas — Peter Willis, Bill Summerscales, Peter Kay, Craig Mason, Ken Boden, Mike Galpin and Bill Arney.

There's also Roy Drinkwater, the former New Zealand international signed from Brisbane Lions.

The club is bristling with confidence. If it managed to beat Hakoah on Sunday, the news would probably be on the front page of the local papers.

The press and television in the northern NSW area are right behind the club, and the expected 10,000 crowd for the opening match will, be enthusiastically one-eyed.

Anyone with a sense for drama will be hoping like hell for a Newcastle victory.

The realists, however, must expect Hakoah to win.

It's likely to be a cut-throat season, in which the championship may be decided by as little as one point or even on goal average, as it was last year.

Hakoah is seeking to retain the title it won last year, so it's not about to drop a point in Newcastle.

There may be doubt over the availability of Hakoah's

star recruit Ernie Campbell. He was sent off during Hakoah's 4-3 victory over Brisbane City recently, and may have to sit out a suspension. On the other hand, he may have been able to serve that suspension last weekend.

Terry Smith, Hilton Silva and Eddie Thompson missed the Brisbane game due to injuries, but will probably be back on Sunday, giving Hakoah the likely line-up of: Todd Clarke, Kevin Mullen, Eddie Thompson, Steve O'Connor, Henry Mowbray, Joe Watson, Murray Barnes, John Stevenson, Ernie Campbell, Terry Smith, Hilton Silva.

That's a side capable of beating anyone!

— LAURIE SCHWAB



Col Curran

England beats Germany

AUGSBURG, West Germany. — England beat West Germany 2-1 in a B International match here. There was no score at

HELLAS TEAM-WORK SHODDY

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS v ST. GEORGE, Barton Park, Rockdale, Sydney, Sunday 3 pm.

A few weeks ago in 'Soccer Action', Bertie Lutton predicted Hellas would finish in the top four of the Philips League.

However, Hellas will not win this game and should be grateful if it gets a draw.

Hellas, as a team, is simply not playing well enough. Coach Dave MacIaren has some brilliant players but they have yet to blend collectively.

Lutton, Billy Rogers, Chris Kent, Peter Ollerton and Sammy Wright are

potential match-winners but there hasn't yet been a day when they all fired simultaneously.

St. George, on the other hand, is playing as a team.

Coach Ilija Takac has youth in Peter Terry and John and Robert O'Shea, combined with the experience of Australian internationals Doug Utjesenovic, George Harris and Harry Williams.

St. George plays a continental style of soccer, building up attacks from the defence and keeping possession of the ball until a pass is definitely on.

Hellas uses more of the long ball, pumping it at

target man Peter Ollerton or sending it wide, giving wingers Kent and Duncan Cummings something to chase.

However, Cummings is having a bad trot and most of the time Ollerton's flick-ons with his head aren't being picked up by Hellas players.

St. George will have to keep an eye on Kent. He has the skill to beat a defender and his pinpoint crosses have led to many goals for Hellas.

The Hellas back four has been proved suspect. Mike Pye is solid at right-back, but on the other side, Margaritis Hagegenoulis' lack of weight and speed is a problem.

In the middle, Peter Vaughan and Chris Kalafatis have the muscle, but often get themselves into trouble by trying to be fancy instead of clearing the ball first time.

George Harris will have to watch his tackling if he plays sweeper in this game. George tends to fly into some tackles, and giving away unnecessary free kicks around your own penalty area is stupid.

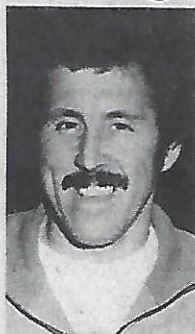
The midfield battle will be interesting and South Melbourne's performance will depend largely on Lutton.

Bertie is most dangerous picking up the ball in his own half from where he can split the defence with a long ball or takeoff in one of his penetrating runs.

However, unless Rogers fires, Lutton will be battling alone against Brendan Grosso, Carlos Mendez and Robert O'Shea or Rudi Gnavi.

The St. George attack is more fluent than South Melbourne's and big Neville Morgan and Phil O'Connor will pounce on any mistakes by the Hellas back four.

Even though there may not seem to be a great deal between the teams on paper, our tip is a win to St. George. — KYLE PATTERSON.



Richards missing

Ray Richards won't play for Marconi after all.

Richards announced his retirement late last year, but changed his mind at the start of 1977.

Now he's done another about face.

The reason is that he's opening yet another sports store at Carlingford in Sydney.

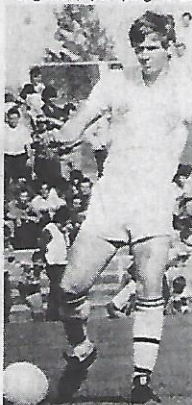
He already has one in Fairfield and another in Brisbane, where he played before moving to Sydney.

Marconi coach Rale Rasic said Richards would be out for at least the first half of the 1977 season.

Whether he manages to come back later, after such a long lay-off, remains to be seen, although the 1974 World Cup star was one of the finest midfielders in the Philips League last year.



Bertie Lutton



Duncan Cummings

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All-action Joe has sights set high

By KYLE PATTERSON

Joe Picioane is waiting eagerly for the selection of the next Australian squad.

If the 25-year-old J.U.S.T. star is picked, it will be his first taste of representative soccer at senior level.

He was chosen for the Victorian squad for the game against Middlesbrough last year but was left out after the national league clubs began to squabble about the release of players.

In the end, several players from national league clubs played and Joe was left to watch from the sideline.

"I was really disappointed," said Joe, "because it would have been my first game for Victoria."

Joe's disappointment may be forgotten if he gets a call-up for the national team.

Picioane is a natural choice for the future Australian squad.

He is young and talented and has shown that he has the ability to compete with the best.

As a midfielder, Joe combines the best of both worlds, being able to win the ball with strong tackling as well as having the skill to beat a man and pass with accuracy.

One criticism could be that he lacks a little pace.

All the guys at J.U.S.T. say that I live in the second half of games," said Joe.

"I like to be in the action all the time, but sometimes I run so much in the first half I can't keep it up in the second."

Picioane hates seeing opponents allowed to run unchallenged with the ball.

"Everyone tells me to keep to one position," he said, "but if I see an opposition player with the ball and no one tackling him, I can't stand and watch!"

Joe has a favorite position, though.

"I like playing where the ball goes," said Joe.

"That way you're always in the action."

Picioane's soccer career has had its ups and downs.

He started with J.U.S.T.'s juniors at the invitation of Zika Nikolic, who writes the Yugoslavian column for "Soc-



Joe Picioane

cer Action" and who has been with J.U.S.T. for years.

J.U.S.T. can be thankful to Zika for finding Picioane and for the hard work he has done for the club.

Joe progressed into the senior ranks, but couldn't break into the first team.

He went on loan to Slavia and then to Waverley City before transferring to Hakoah St. Kilda.

After three years with

Hakoah he returned to J.U.S.T. where his soccer talent blossomed.

The advent of the Phillips League did a lot to help Joe's game.

"Playing against top players each week makes you improve," Picioane said.

"Our two Red Star guest players, Borovnica and Nikolic, were also a great help last year."

"When you are playing with top class players," he continued, "you try that little bit harder."

And what about J.U.S.T. this year?

"I thought we were unlucky last season," said Joe.

"We had a few bad results and it's hard to keep your head up when things are going against you."

"We have basically the same team," he continued, "and we will be doing our best."

At any rate, Joe Picioane will be doing plenty of running!



Joe Picioane shoots for goal against St. George. In the middle is Joe Palinkas and behind them Brendan Grosse.



Roberto Echeverria (right) tangles with Andrew Bozikas during last year's Alexander v Brisbane City game at Middle Park. At left is Pat Bannon.

ALEXANDER TOO GOOD

FITZROY ALEXANDER v BRISBANE CITY, Middle Park, Melbourne, Saturday 3 pm.

The in-form Alexander should take both points from this game, but Brisbane City will be no pushover.

City, holder of the Phillips Cup, will be out to prove that it is still a force even without former Scottish international Jim Hermiston, who has transferred to Brisbane Lions.

To plug the gap left after Hermiston's departure, City has tried to convert Steve Perry, recently signed from Western Suburbs, from a full-back to a sweeper.

If Perry can handle the strong Alexander forward line of Branko Buljevic, Gary Cole and Andy Bozikas, then he will be able to cope with any other attack in the PSL.

The tightness of Brisbane's back four could decide the result.

If Buljevic and Co. are given the chance they will run riot, but even if the City defence is on its toes Alexander will still find a way through.

Roberto Echeverria poses a threat to Alexander. He is a fast and clever midfielder and he will have too much pace for Pat Bannon, for one.

Willie Connor can be brilliant at times and Kevin Caldwell works hard up front for City.

However, Arthur McMillan and Jim O'Reilly play it hard and tight at the back for Alexander, and along with big Bobby Provan and Jim Tansey, won't give the City strikers much latitude.

Watson boss

John Watson, a life and founder member of Doveton Soccer club, has been appointed manager of the senior team.

John, former Victorian State junior coach, had charge of a recent trial game in which Doveton drew 2-2 with top State League club Frankston.



Steve Perry — sweeper

Alexander may play its new midfielder from Scotland, but if not, the midfield will be Bannon, Jim Campbell and Ken Taylor.

Sometimes Campbell and Taylor neglect their defensive duties as midfielders, so Brisbane may be able to catch Alexander on the break.

The only way City has a chance of upsetting Alexander is by playing defensively and blotting any attacks, hoping to scrape a draw or maybe snatch a win with a break-away goal. — KYLE PATTERSON



Dave Rigby (ex-Mooroolbark) in Juventus colors.

It's not quite clear which players Juventus has or hasn't signed.

Those who have been playing in practice matches include Henry Kolecki (Polonia), Dave Rigby (Mooroolbark), Robert Marwe (Croatia SA), and Peter Kowalski (Lion).

Bugsey Nyskohus has definitely switched over from Lion, and will play at left back, the position to which he is best suited.

Kolecki appears another definite acquisition, and he will adequately compensate for the absence of Agenor Muniz who is still recovering from an operation.

However, judging from Juventus' display in losing to South Melbourne Hellas in their practice match a few weeks ago, the team does not yet look as good as it did last season.

J.U.S.T. may have a problem with one of the full back positions, as Andy Kazi has retired and Andrija Ristic has been out injured.

If Ristic is unavailable, Zoran Iljaski will probably play left back, with the right side taken by Alan Parrott.

Midfield, in that case, will be Mirko Rujevic, Joe Picioane and Mendo Ristovski, and the attack: Joe Palinkas, Dragan Vasic and John Nicolaides.

One centre back will be Jim Kondaros but the other position is doubtful because Kriaris is injured, and goalkeeper will be Mike O'Hara.

CAN LISTER AND MATIC STOP VASIC?

ADELAIDE JUVENTUS v FOOTSCRAY J.U.S.T., Olympic Sports Field, Adelaide, Sunday, 2.30 pm.



J.U.S.T. defender Jim Kriaris clears with a flying kick during last year's clash with Adelaide Juventus in Melbourne.

Kriaris is injured and will be missed. At right is Mirko Rujevic and at centre Frank Micic.

Pictures by SAM BELFONTE.

The J.U.S.T. team appears much more settled and less disturbed than the Juventus line-up, which would tip the scales in J.U.S.T.'s favor.

Vasic, who arrived late last year, will have the difficult task of confronting centre backs Frank Lister and Zoran

Matic but he's generally good for at least one goal.

The J.U.S.T. players don't particularly like travelling but if they unleash all their skills and tricks on Sunday they'll be guaranteed of starting the season with a victory. — LAURIE SCHWAB

Midfield trio to beat the Lions

BRISBANE LIONS v MARCONI, Perry Park, Brisbane, Sunday, 3 pm.

Were this game to be played in Sydney, Marconi would be the undoubted favorite.

However, all PSL teams have found it hard to win in Brisbane, as Marconi found last year when it lost to Phillips

Cup final to Brisbane City.

Lions' star recruit Jim Hermiston, teaming up with Socceroo Col Bennett, will make it virtually impossible for Marconi to break through the middle of the defence.

However, Lions' full backs aren't half as impressive as

the centre backs, which means Rale Rasic will instruct his team to play down the flanks.

In Peter Sharpe and Mark Jankovic he has men who can get past even the best of full backs.

However, Lions are also strong in attack, now that they have signed Barrie Fairbrother and Paul Ontong from Mooroolbark.

But they will nevertheless find it hard to notch up win-

ing goals, and they'll find it particularly hard against Marconi's experienced Ivor Prskalo on Sunday.

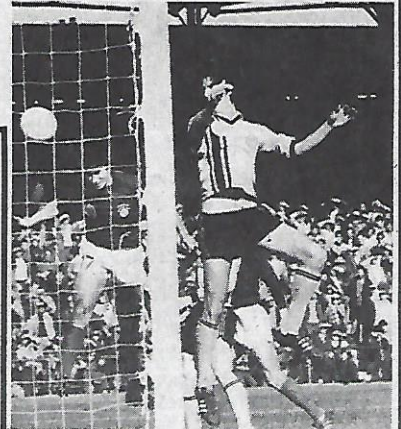
And what can Lions offer to combat Jimmy Rooney, Roberto Vieri and Gary Byrne in midfield?

Certainly Eddie Spearritt, Neale if he plays, and Iain Fagan are no match for the Marconi trio.

For that reason, our tip is Marconi to win. — LAURIE SCHWAB



Marconi's central striker Bertie Mariani in action against Alexander's Mike Micevski (left). Mariani will have trouble against Lions' Hermiston and Bennett.



Dragan Vasic, J.U.S.T.'s key striker, scores against Alexander's Bob Provan (right).

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Ivan Grujic



Brian Stoddart

CANBERRA CITY v. WEST ADELAIDE HELLAS,
National Athletic Stadium, Bruce, Canberra, Sun-
day, 2.30 pm.

This match is a milestone in Australian soccer — the first to be played at the magnificent Bruce Stadium venue of the Pacific Conference Games last year.

Canberra City also has a social club now, and from April, poker machines will start generating income that was so desperately needed last year.

And to top it all, Canberra may have the services of one of the most exciting midfielders in Australia, John Davies from Croatia Sydney. Trouble is, St. George also wants him.

Brian Stoddart retains his reputation as one of the most creative forwards in the country and of course Tony Henderson has few peers as either a centre back or a midfielder capable of coming up to score.

There had been some doubt about the availability of midfielder Ivan Grujic. As usual, Essendon-Croatia of Melbourne was trying to gain Grujic's services, but the brilliant schemer has signed a new two-year contract with Canberra.

Ken Henderson, brother of Tony, is spoken of highly, and coach Johnny Warren expects good service from young English import Terry Byrne an apprentice from Preston North End in England.

And let's not forget Danny Moulla, that exciting young full back who'll be all the better for the experience of 1977.

But for all it pluses, Canberra will find it hard to start the season with a victory over West Adelaide Hellas.

Under the capable leadership of former Alexander coach John Margaritis the South Australians have emerged as one of the leading contenders for the championship.

Hellas may have lost John Kosmina, but it has recruited wisely in signing talented Yugoslav Vic Bozic from Polonia (SA) and Uroš Zivkovic from Beograd.

What's more, it has imported midfielder Eric Carruthers from Derby County, and has been trying out controversial forward Ulysses Kokkinos from Melbourne.

Graham Honeyman, the former Hakoah player who served a long suspension last season, will take Kosmina's place up front, and brilliant midfielder Peter Boyle is also good for vital goals.

Canberra's team will be selected from Ben Tiled, Danny Lindemeyer, Danny Moulla, John Brown, Roy Starke, Tony Henderson, Mike Milovanovic, Ken Henderson, Ivan Grujic, Ken Henderson, Gary Porter, Brian Stoddart, Jim Cant, Steve Hogg, Terry Byrne.

Rinaldo to West Adelaide

Young goalkeeper Dominic Rinaldo has been granted permission to train with West Adelaide Hellas.

Rinaldo was originally refused permission by his club Lion to train with Adelaide Juventus.

West Adelaide has a dearth of top-class reserve keepers and Rinaldo would be the obvious choice if Martyn Crook is injured.

A decision on Rinaldo's transfer should be made within the next few weeks.

Meanwhile a First Division club has approached Rinaldo but I understand he rejected the offer.

— MENO TOUTSIDIS



Peter Stone (right) in action against former Fitzroy-Alexander striker George Gillan.

PETER STONE SET TO DO A KOSMINA

Australia and Western Suburbs midfielder, Peter Stone, will try his luck in the English First Division next season.

Stone follows the lead by John Kosmina, who is currently trying out with the famous London club, Arsenal.

If these two are successful it could lead to a mass exodus of Australia's young stars to the glamorous English League.

Stone has reached an agreement with Western Suburbs whereby it will release him after this season.

He had an opportunity to go to England to play soccer when he was 15.

"Arthur Oldham, a former professional with Middlesbrough, offered to take me back to England with him," said Peter.

"but at 15 I thought it was too young to be away from my parents. Besides I had an education to think about."

Peter stayed at school and is now a teacher.

With his future secured, Stone was able to think seriously about going overseas.

"I am going to take two years' leave without pay," he said, "so even if I don't make it I'll have a job to come back to."

Peter is not expecting to take the place by storm.

"I'll take it as it comes," he said, "but it's something I've always wanted to do, so I'll be trying my hardest."

"Just training with professionals will help my game, so I can't lose from the trip."

Stone has not signed with any club, but Nottingham Forest and Leeds United were mentioned.

A player of undoubted class, Stone broke into the Australian team for the last

few games of the World Cup campaign.

"Playing overseas improved my game," he said, "as well as being a great experience."

Stone is full of praise for Jimmy Shoulder, the former National team coach.

"Jimmy gave me confidence and made me believe in myself," said Peter.

"When I first came into the Australian squad, I was almost apologising for being there, but after a while I felt right at home."

On the topic of Western Suburbs, captain Peter Wilson has re-signed to play this season as has Dave Harding.

Although all of Australia will be wishing Peter and John Kosmina luck in England, we must also hope we don't lose them for good as they are both young and talented, and will be needed for the 1982 World Cup bid.

— KYLE PATTERSON.

New Scottish striker to help Olympic

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v. WESTERN SUBURBS,
Arlington Oval, Dulwich Hill, Sydney, Sunday 3 pm.

Dundee striker Derek Laing will give Olympic's attack extra sting if he arrives in time to play against Wests on Sunday.

However, it is in defence that Olympic needs to improve.

The defence was disastrous in the 1-4 loss to Alexander and a 3-4 debacle against South Melbourne Hellas.

It was as a result of the loss to Alexander that coach Tom Anderson transfer-listed centre back Richie Bell.

Dave McIntosh and Paul Colton will probably line up as the centre backs once more, but Anderson has the option of using Scottish import Stuart Markland in one of those positions.

On the other hand, Markland can be just as effective playing as a defensive midfielder.

Wests have re-signed Peter Wilson and Dave Harding, but without Graeme Norris, they may find themselves wanting in attack.

Clive Eaton is a good striker, but at the moment it looks like he'll have to shoulder too much of the responsibility.

Wests' key players will undoubtedly be midfielders Harding and Peter Stone, who was among the stars of the league last season.

The full back positions appear to be Wests coach Mike Laing's biggest headache, since Steve Petty has switched to Brisbane City and Col Curran is set on Newcastle.

Look out for Wests youngsters Mark Samuels, and Ian Rowden. They have a big future.

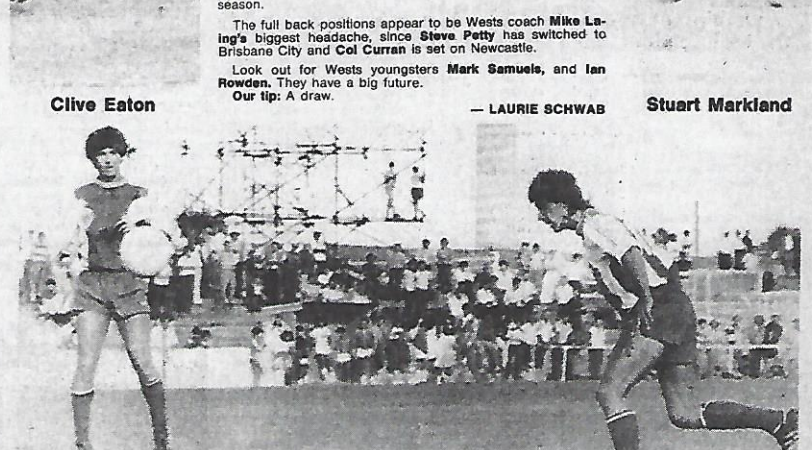
Our tip: A draw.

— LAURIE SCHWAB

Stuart Markland



Clive Eaton



Olympic's Joe Senkalski (right) heads home a goal in a practice match against South Melbourne Hellas.

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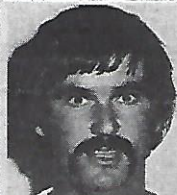


Not for the common man.

HYTREN/P/121

CROATIA A FORCE AGAIN

A special "Soccer Action" supplement on one of the biggest comebacks since Lazarus — the rise of Essendon-Croatia, out of the ashes of 1972 when the original Croatia was expelled from the VSF. The story also covers the Lions club which the Croatian soccer community took over in 1975 ...



JOHN GARDINER, player-coach, returned from Hellas recently in \$6000 transfer deal. Left Croatia for Hellas last year, in exchange for John Kennedy, Howard Andrews and cash. Joined Croatia the first time in 1976, from George Cross, for \$6000. Won the 1971 and 1972 Rothmans Medals while with George Cross. Played in Scotland for East Fife. Victorian State player.



GRANT SMART, right back, imported in May, 1977, from Scotland where he played for Montrose. The younger brother of former Lions, George Cross and Juventus star Jimmy Smart.



STEVE KOKOSKA, centre back, 1976 Yugoslav Airlines Player of the Year, bought last year from Sunshine City for \$6000. State player.



ANTE BILAYER, left back, played for Croatia reserves 10 years ago, then had a stint with Makedonia-Shepparton before joining Essendon in 1974.



KEN MURPHY, midfielder or winger, was on the books of Dundee United in Scotland and was recruited in August 1976.



Essendon-Croatia, 1978, standing from left: Frank Burlin (manager), Wally Kulyk, Eddy Krncevic, Grant Smart, Steve Kokoska, John Gardiner (coach), Dime Petrovski, Alan Kerr, Duje Zemunik (assistant coach), Billy Vojtek; Front: Danny Lacok, Brian Davidson, Ken Murphy, Tommy Cumming, Howard Andrews, Ante Bilaver, Branko Culina, Nick Kuzmanov. Missing: Drago Krajina, Silvano Franin, Joe Timpano.



HOWARD ANDREWS, midfielder, born in South Africa where he played for Durban United. Also played for Maitland in England. Joined Essendon last year from South Melbourne Hellas.



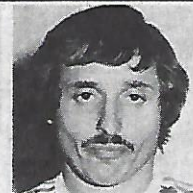
BRANKO CULINA, midfielder, a former Croatia junior, he joined Juventus when Croatia was expelled from the VSF, and then switched to St. Albans, where he was in the first team at the age of 17. Came to Essendon at the start of 1976.



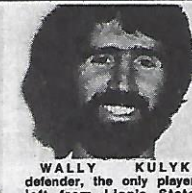
DRAGO KRAJINA, midfielder, former Juventus player who transferred in 1975. Currently injured.



ALAN KERR, midfielder, joined last year from Croatia Perth, and played in England for Sheffield Wednesday and Notts County.



BILLY VOJTEK, forward, capped 31 times for Australia. Played 48 times for Victoria. Has also captained Victoria, and together with Jimmy Mackay, was Croatia's brightest star for many years. Essendon bought him for \$8000 from Juventus last year, but he had an injury and has only now recovered from the operation.



WALLY KULYK, defender, the only player left from Lion's State League days.



BRIAN DAVIDSON, forward, came last year from New Zealand where he played for Wellington Diamond United. Played for New Zealand against Hearts and Wolves.



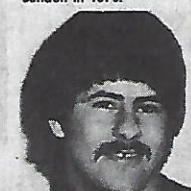
EDDY KRNCVIC, forward, only 17-years-old, this former Croatia junior moved to Essendon from Juventus in 1976.



TOMMY CUMMING, forward, bought for \$6000 from Sunshine, where he scored 17 goals in 1976. Has played for Victoria.



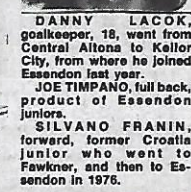
NICK KUZMANOV, forward, played for Makedonia, Croatia-Adelaide and Yugal in Sydney before joining Essendon in 1976.



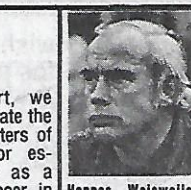
DIME PETROVSKI, goalkeeper, played for Makedonia and Yugal, and joined Essendon at the same time as Kuzmanov.



DANNY LACOK, goalkeeper, 18, went from Central Altona to Kellor City, from where he joined Essendon last year.



JOE TIMPANO, full back, product of Essendon juniors.



SILVANO FRANIN, forward, former Croatia junior, who went to Falkner, and then to Essendon in 1976.



The Croatia team that won the 1968 championship, Dockerty Cup and Ampol Cup, standing from left: Hugh Gunn, Bill McArthur, Mike Kovacek, Duncan McKay, Jimmy Mackay, Horst Rau; front: Bill McIntyre, Brian Adam, Billy Vojtek, Frank Bot, Hammy McMeenan.

Here at Habbe Sport, we would like to congratulate the committee and supporters of Essendon Croatia for establishing the club as a powerful force of soccer in Victoria. We are indeed proud to be associated with the club.



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Sigur boss

Officials of Essendon-Croatia are:
President: **Joe Sigur**.
Manager: **Frank Burlin**.
Vice-presidents: **Mijo Miro, Steve Barac**.
Secretary: **Josef Solic**.
Assistant secretary: **Vlado Brea**.
Treasurer: **Ante Smolic**.
Assistant treasurer: **Mijo Cesljar**.
Committee: **Zdravko Jurcevic, Ivan Vidovic**.

Ante Tadic, Nick Maglic, Ivan Krizek, M. Krncevic, T. Hamer, N. Gazic.

Junior chairman: **Vinko Babic**.

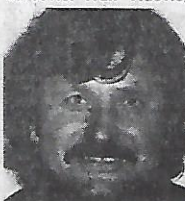
Junior secretary: **Joe Vojvoda**.

Senior coach: **John Gardiner**.

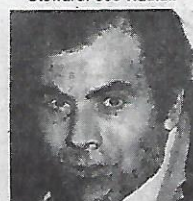
Reserves coach: **Duje Zemunik**.

Under 19 coach: **Alan Kerr**.

Steward: **Joe Naufal**.



Duje Zemunik, assistant coach



Joe Naufal, property steward



Croatia's great midfield player Horat Rau (left), stands by to help goalkeeper Mike Kovacek.

Hajduk, Preston sy up in ear amalgamat

By LAURIE SCHWAB

The history of Essendon-Croatia is one of the most confusing on record.

In telling it, we must also tell the story of Ukranian Soccer Club (USC) Lions and of Hajduk, Preston, Croat and former State League club Croatia.

It all started with the old Croatia club which was formed back in 1953 and played for two years in the Provisional League.

In 1955 Croatia finished second to Brunswick in the old Metropolitan South division. Other teams in the division were Yarra Park, Port Melbourne, St Albans and Rosebud.

The same year, Lions finished second in Metropolitan North. Coburg and Lions both had 26 points, but Coburg won the championship on goal average. Others in the division were Fairfield, University, Bayswater, UYD and Heidelberg.

In 1956, we start the story of the Hajduk club, which

played at Royal Park and whose secretary was Dr. J. Sartory.

Croatia, incidentally, played at Yarra Park No. 4 oval, and Lions at Yarra Park No. 13.

Anyway, in 1956, Hajduk won the Metropolitan North championship, with Lions again finishing second on goal average.

In the South, Croatia managed only fourth place behind Yarra Park, Rosebud and Victoria Police. What's more, Croatia lost 1-15 to Moreland in the second round of the Dockerty Cup.

And so, of the three clubs, Hajduk was the most successful, gaining promotion to the Third Division where it finished fourth in 1957, behind Yarra Park, Dandenong and Coburg.

As for Croatia and Lions, they both managed to become runners-up in their respective leagues — Croatia finishing second to Melbourne in Metropolitan South and Lions being pipped by ICI in the North.

Leading officials of this period were J. Radojevic, I. Mrkocica, T. Durakovic, B.

Pasevic and S. Kratofil of Croatia, and V. Wirt, W. Macohan and J. Boluch of Lions.

Moving on, we find both Croatia and Lions in Second Division North in the year 1958.

Croatia had now moved to North Geelong, where it played at Ground No. 2, in Separation Street.

Final league standings at the end of the season were: Corio 32 pts., Croatia 31, Fiorentina 29, Lions 27, University 20, Williamstown 13, Heidelberg 12, St Albans 9, Fairfield 7, Commonwealth Fertiliser 2.

Croatia's biggest wins that year were 13-1 v Williamstown and 12-1 v St Albans. Lions' biggest wins were 12-1 v Fairfield and 6-0 v St Albans.

Hajduk, meanwhile, finished seventh in a higher league, First Division North, where the championship was won by Footscray Capri.

That was the end of Hajduk, for in 1958, it agreed to amalgamate with Lions.

The new club was called Lions-Hajduk for only one season, and after that it



The 1962 Croatia outfit that won promotion to Committeemen standing, from left: Matkovic, Silver, Kiss, Troskot, Drk, Karapetvic, Jakovovic, Durakovic. Team, from left: Suhobodnik, Popovic, Vojtek, Zemunik, Mate, Pantaion, P. Basic, B. I.

reverted to USC Lions.

The amalgamation meant Lions stepped up onto First Division North along with Croatia, which had got there the normal way, by winning promotion.

For the start of that season (1959) Croatia was once again on a new ground — Corio Oval at Eastern Park, Geelong. Lions stayed put at Yarra Park.

Croatia's coaches were J. Karamatic and I. Martinac while new names on the Lions committee included secretary S. Horicakzo, treasurer O. Kucil and VSF delegate I. Senic.

Final table for 1959 was: Preston 31, Croatia 30, Lions-Hajduk 26, Sunshine 19, Sicilia 17, Maccabi 16, Corio 15, Coburg 14, Hellenic 12, Brunswick 0.

Croatia also had a good run in the Dockerty Cup, beating Fairfield 10-0, Maccabi 1-0, Sandringham 2-0 and South Melbourne 3-1 before crashing 4-12 to Wilhelmina.

At the end of the 1959 season, Croatia was sitting at the top of the table, set for promotion to the State League.

However, there had been a long dispute over a Preston v Brunswick game, which had finished in a 1-1 draw.

A few weeks after the season, the VSF ruled that Brunswick had used an ineligible player in that match, and so awarded both points to Preston, which put that club above Croatia.



The 1963 Croatia team finishing equal last with left: Rau, Vojtek, Hance Fearnie, P. Basic, Panti

This disappointed many of the Croatia officials, including well-known Enver Begovic who, some years later, was to become chairman of the VSF.

Begovic, together with others including Radojevic, Marinov, and Florescu, virtually took over the Preston club, which had until then been run by Hungarian brothers J. and H. Liepold.

Nine players also switched from Croatia to Preston. They included Dukic, Romot, Horvath, Gregovic, Tanjoni and Silver.

A reorganisation of leagues resulted in Croatia playing in First Division North and Lions in Second Division North in the 1960 season.

Croatia was overshadowed by Lions that year, finishing fifth to South Melbourne Hellas, Moonee Ponds, Corio and Fiorentina while Lions won both the senior and reserve championships in Second Division North.

Lions won the senior title with 34 points, from runner-up Collingwood which had 32 points. Third was Norlane Olympia with 23 and fourth St Albans with 19.

Lions' biggest wins that season were 17-1 v Heidelberg, 11-1 v Essendon, 10-0 v Seymour and 9-0 v Fairfield.

The reserves won the title on goal average from Fernree Gully.

So, in 1961, Lions rejoined Croatia in First Division North. Preston, based in Collier Street, Preston, had meanwhile finished second last in the State League and was relegated to First Division South, where it appeared as Preston-Croatia the following season (1961).

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Croatia's long-serving Frank Bot (right) in action against a Slavia opponent.

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ite League by eight points.
lek, Marin, Kekec, Janko,
Matijevic, Burin, Mdazar,
Pepe Achary, Tato, Stash,
ic.



that was relegated after
koah, on 17 points, from
Lucnik, Rajko, Zemunik,
n, B. Basic.

And so you now had Preston Croatia playing in First South, while Lions and Croatia carried on in First North.

The name of Roman Lazarko, who was to become one of Lions' top administrators over the years, appeared for the first time in 1961, as VSF delegate.

So, how did the leagues go that year?

Lions and Preston-Croatia were both wildly successful, but Croatia could do no better than third place.

First Division North was won by Lions with 30 points, from Fiorentina 29, Croatia 27, Sunshine 25, Footscray 20, Moonee Ponds 14, Corio 14, Maccabi 10, Collingwood 6 and Coburg 5.

Lions also won the reserves championship, with 32 points, from Footscray, which had 28.

First Division South was won by Preston-Croatia with 34 points, from Brighton 25, Dandenong 23, Austria 22, Ferntree Gully 20, Yallourn 16, Sandringham 13, Geelong 11, Frankston 9, and South Yarra 7.

In the first round of the Dockerty Cup Lions beat Croatia 3-0, and went on to beat Frankston 4-2 and Maccabi 5-4 before being eliminated by Alexander 0-2.

So, at the end of the 1961 season, Lions and Preston-Croatia had both won promotion to the State League. Richmond and Box Hill were relegated to make room for them.

Feeling left out, Croatia moved out of Geelong to the Maribyrnong Speedway in a determined bid for success.

President that year was none other than Frank Burin,

who is today the club manager of Essendon-Croatia. Burin's fellow administrators included Tony Dural, Branko Troskot, T. Jakobovic, I. Matijevic, V. Simek, S. Silver, J. Jakovic, N. Matijevic, P. Madzar and N. Drik.

We now had the nucleus of what was eventually to become the mighty Croatia of the State League.

Lions meanwhile, changed their ground in preparation for their first State League season, moving from Yarra Park to Slavia's Port Melbourne ground.

Preston-Croatia also made a major change, discarding the old name and adopting the name "Croat" instead.

So the stage was set — Croat and Lions both in the State League, and the new look Croatia making a strong push in First North.

The State League ladder at the end of that season (1962) was: Hellas 32, Juventus 30, Wilhelmina 30, J.U.S.T. 29, George Cross 28, Hakoah 28, Slavia 22, Polonia 21, Melbourne 16, Croat 14, Lions 12, Moreland 2.

As you can see, Lions and Croat were disappointing.

Frank Burin's Croatia had a much better year, winning the First North championship and being promoted to the State League.

The ladder was Croatia 39, Box Hill 34, Fitzroy 28, Alexander 26, Moonee Ponds 23, Sunshine 20, University 17, Corio 16, Collingwood 16, Sicilia 16, Heidelberg 15, Maccabi 14.

Now the Croatian community was faced with the prospect of having two clubs in the State League.

That was clearly out of the question, as one would rob the other of support.

To solve the problem the clubs amalgamated.

The new Croatia club stayed at the Maribyrnong Speedway.

Enver Begovic, secretary Frank Burin, treasurer H. Maska, chairman I. Marinovic.

Lions switched from Port Melbourne to Montgomery Park, Essendon, and so, was later to be known as Essendon-Lions.

A prominent name that appeared among the Lions officials that year was K. Schaffner, who served as a VSF delegate for some years.

Lions did fairly well in the league, finishing eighth, but for Croatia, it was a disastrous season, as the club finished second last, ahead of last-placed Richmond.

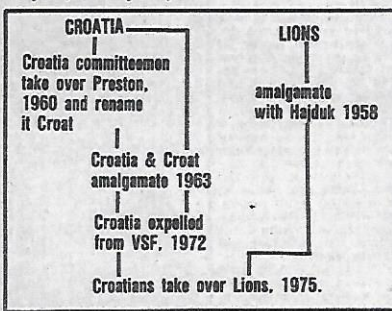
Begovic and Richmond boss Adam Pfeiffer took legal action against the VSF, claiming there had been an agreement that the two last-placed clubs should have the right to play off against clubs coming up, to decide the promotion-relegation set-up.

The VSF argued there had been no such official agreement, and won, meaning Croatia and Richmond had to take the big drop.

Lions started the 1964 season by reaching the Am-



The Croatia team that won promotion back to State League in 1964, from left: Burin (manager), Silvar, Kovacek, Brescuso, Tato, Matijevic, Becsi, Richmond, Rau, Torskot (president), Norris, Billy Vojtek, Jimmy Vojtek.



pol Cup final, where it was beaten 2-0 by Polonia.

Croatia, featuring many top players including Bill and Jim Vojtek, Horst Rau and Ollie Norris, won the First Division championship and was promoted back to the State League.

The 1965 season was a turning point for both clubs. It pointed Croatia towards success and Lions towards eventual failure.

Croatia started the season by losing six of the first seven games but after spending more than £5000 (the equivalent of about \$50,000 today) on new players, the team finished sixth.

Hammy McMeechan was bought from Slavia for a then Victorian record fee of £1200.



Jimmy Mackay, who later played for Hakoah-East and SM-Hellas.

McMeechan was in Australia's World Cup squad later that year, and also became Croatia's top scorer for 1965.

Other signings included Bobby McLachlan, Bill McIntyre, Brian Adam, Joe Keenan, Ian Currie and of course the great Duncan McKay.

McKay, the former Celtic full back and Scottish international, was signed by Frank Burin when Burin was overseas on his recruiting mission.

McKay's first game was against Trieste but Croatia lost 4-5. Fifteen games later Croatia had gained 22 more points, finishing with a total of 25.

Other players that year were Wright, Rau, Bot, Becsi, Matijevic, Chetcuti, Kovacek and Billy Vojtek. The great Jimmy Mackay joined at the end of the season.

Lions finished second last. Its president was V. Hadjigeorgio, manager-secretary John Vandelo, and vice-president Stan Plekan, a former Victorian State player.

Bill Hamilton (ex-Kilmarnock) was team captain.

Tommy Rosewell, a State player, was top scorer and it was his goals plus those of Hamilton, Kerklaan and latecomer Smits that saved Lions from relegation.

Final ladder of 1965 was: Hellas 34, George Cross 32, Juventus 30, Slavia 29, J.U.S.T. 26, Croatia 25, Hakoah 23, Polonia 21, Wilhelmina 18, Melbourne 12, Lions 8, Trieste 6.

Jan Hemmerling had started the season as Lions' coach, but Mike de Bruyckere, the former Dutch international from Wilhelmina, became player-coach later. Steve Walker, later with Hellas and now with Juventus, also joined Lions in 1965.

Other Lions players of the era included Fred Kleinert, Joe and Franz Marth (later with St Albans), Peter Aldis who came from Aston Villa, the long-serving Frank Schwartz and goalscorer Rolf Beinhorn.

The 1966 season was one of consolidation for Croatia.

Lions fared better but resumed its slump in 1967, when the final ladder was: Melbourne 34, Juventus 32, Croatia 27, Hellas 27, J.U.S.T. 26, Hakoah 25, Slavia 22, George Cross 17, Polonia 16, Lions 14, Alexander 13, Makedonia 10.

In 1968, Lions featured Scottish midfield dynamo Jimmy Rooney, who later played for Prague and APIA and who is now with Marconi. Rooney won the Victorian Argus Medal as player of the year, while another prominent player was forward Jimmy Smart, who was to go on to George Cross, Juventus and Dandenong.

Croatia was at Olympic Park now, and Lions' officials included George Sawczak who was delegate to the VSF.

It was Croatia's most successful year on record, winning the Ampol Cup, the Dockerty Cup and the State League championship.

The basic team that year was: Mike Kovacek, Duncan McKay, Hugh Gunn, Bill McArthur, Frank Bot, Horst Rau, Jimmy Mackay, Billy



The last Lions team, before the Croatian take-over. The team finished seventh in 1974. Standing, from left: Radeovic, Wally Kulyk, Russell Peczeny, Joe Tempone, Alex Napadowski, Graeme Haynes, Bill Dackin, Tony Vrzina (manager-coach). Front: Michael Chudiek, Bruno Malolo, Andy DePetro, Zdenko Brkljacic, Ian Leves, assistant coach Bressan.

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Croatia backs in the glory of its 1968 Ampol Cup triumph. Standing, from left: Bill McArthur (with beard), Enver Begovic (president), Theo Marmaras (VSF president), Frank Burin (manager), Billy Snedden (then Immigration Minister), Alfred Glaser; front: Jim Vojtek, Friganovic, Jimmy Mackay (rear), Hugh Gunn, Frank Bot, Billy Vojtek, Hammy McMeechan, Horst Rau.

I wish that Croatian players understand and work together with its committee, and give all they've got throughout the year, not only will you be well rewarded, but our supporters will appreciate your efforts.

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CROATIANS BUY OUT LIONS FOR \$25,000

From page 9

McIntyre, Hammy
McMeechan, Billy Vojtek,
Alfred Glaser.

The final ladder was:
Croatia 33, Polonia 26, Hellas
25, Hakoah 24, Lions 24,
George Cross 22, Wilhelmina
22, Slavia 19, Juventus 19,
Melbourne 18, J.U.S.T. 16,
Alexander 16.

In 1969 Croatia retained the
Dockerly Cup, beating
Juventus 3-1 in the final after
having earlier disposed of
George Cross 3-1, Ringwood
United 6-1 and Wilhelmina 1-0.

However, J.U.S.T.,
coached by Rale Raic, won
the championship, and
Croatia had to be content with
fourth place, while Lions
finished sixth.

In 1970 Croatia featured
Ray Wixey, Bobby
Symington, Brian Williams,
Ivan Turicar and Joe Rahley
in addition to regulars Vojtek,
Mackay, Gunn, McIntyre,
McArthur and Kovacek. It
was also the year Frank Bot
retired.

Star of the Lions team was
Ian McCarthy, the hard-
working midfielder who later
went to Melbourne and is now
with Sunshine City.

Others in the team included
Collinson, John Robertson,
Tommy Robertson, Eddie
Butler, Hugh Murney, van
Zelst, Keenan, Tochei,
McGuinness and Murray.

Croatia finished fourth in
the league, while Lions were
near the foot of the table.
The following year, 1971,
was the most disastrous in
Lions' history. The team went
15 games before scoring its
only win of the season and it
took 873 minutes of play
before Eddie Butler managed
the team's first goal.

Lions' 0-6 loss to Ringwood
Wilhelmina in the last game of
the year, was the biggest of
the league that year. In
recording only one win and
scoring only 10 goals, Lions

created record "lows" which
still stand today.

John Livingstone was the
top scorer for the year. His
total: three!

Croatia, on the other hand,
achieved more triumphs.

It started the season by
winning the Ampol Cup final
5-1 against J.U.S.T. with Vojtek
(2), Mackay (2) and
Turicar scoring the goals.
Mile replied for J.U.S.T.

Croatia also won the inter-
state Ampol Cup against
Western Suburbs, with McIntyre
scoring a hat-trick.

In the State League Cup
final, Croatia beat Hellas 3-2
to also lift that trophy.
Goalscorers were Kuzilek,
Ivanovic and Adlam for
Croatia and Armstrong and
Casaldi for Hellas.

Croatia also won the State
League reserves championship,
on goal average from
Wilhelmina and Hellas.

The senior State League
ladder was: J.U.S.T. 33,
Hellas 32, Croatia 27,
Melbourne 27, Wilhelmina 24,
George Cross 24, Polonia 22,
Juventus 21, Hakoah 20, Box
Hill 16, Alexander 13, Lions 5.

Croatia started the 1972
season by again winning the
Ampol Cup, but this was to
be the last year of the club's
existence!

Everything went smoothly
until there was a crowd distur-
bance during a match against
Hakoah at Olympic Park near
the end of the season.

As a result, the VSF
decided to expel Croatia
from the federation.

Croatia fought the decision
through legal channels but to
no avail.

The team had collected 19
points during the season,
which would have put it into
seventh place, but instead, it
was expelled.

Lions, meanwhile,
struggled in the First Division,
finishing third last, while
Slavia won the championship
to be promoted back to State
League.

Lions' officials that year in-
cluded S. Hnativ and V.
Mahorin.

Croatia, of course, lost its
players. Vojtek went to
Croatia Sydney, Mackay to
Hakoah-Sydney, McIntyre to
Hellas, Kondaric, Turicar
and Hadlavdic to Kellor-
Austria.

Although they no longer
had a soccer team, the
Croatia officials continued to
have weekly meetings every
Tuesday, as well as picnics
and other social functions
waiting for an opportunity to
get back into soccer.

Eventually Lions were to
give them that opportunity.

Quite clearly, much of the
enthusiasm had left Lions and
the effect was seen in the per-
formance of the team, which
finished ninth in the First Division
in 1973, the year
Moorebank won promotion.

In July 1974, Tony Vrzina,
who had coached Croatia in
1971 and 1972, became
coach of Lions. It was an ap-
pointment that led to the
eventual Croatian take-over
of the Lions club.

Lions were second last,
with seven points and only six
games to go when Vrzina took
over. He brought with him

Hammy
McMeechan —
bought from Slavia
for the then record
price of \$1200.

Zdenko Brkicic, from
Altona's reserves, and Ante
Blavner from Makedonia-
Shepparton and although
Lions lost 0-9 to champions
Sunshine in the last round,
they managed to avoid
relegation.

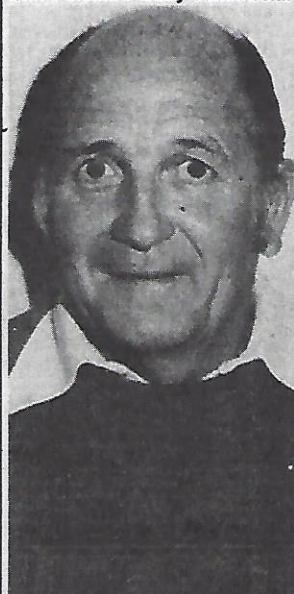
The following year, 1975,



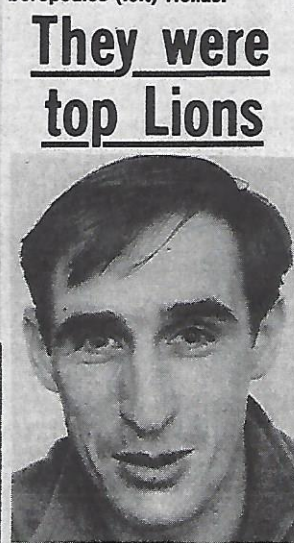
Joe Marth (left), a top Lions
defender of the 60s, pictured here
with Polonia's Eddy Jankowski.



Lions wing-half Freddy
Kleinert, with Boullis Kam-
boropoulos (left) Hellas.



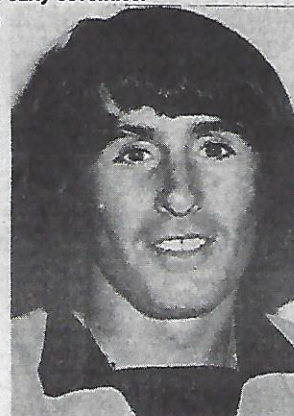
Mike de Bruyckere, the former
Dutch international who was
Lions' player-coach.



Tommy Rosewell — defender
and forward of the late sixties and
early seventies.



Jimmy Rooney — he won the
Argus Medal with Lions in 1968.



Midfielder Ian McCarthy, now
with Sunshine.

the Croatian takeover
became complete. A total of
\$25,000 was handed to the
Ukrainian committee as com-
pensation for the money it
had spent on Montgomery
Park, Essendon.

A new committee was set
up, comprising people who
had been associated with the

defunct Croatia club. They
are: Tomo Bozic, Nick Dik,
Milo Cesljar, Tomo Hrvo-
jevic, Sime Puhalic, Ernest
Vojtek, and Stanko Bukov-
sak.

President-manager was
Tony Vrzina and coach Duje
Zemunik.

The first thing the new

leaders did was to change the
team's colors from gold and
blue to the Croatian colors of
red, white and blue.

Vrzina then negotiated the
transfer of Hugh Gunn and
Mike Kovacek from Juventus,
and later Ivan Turicar from
Austria.

However, the team was still
running about eighth, so
defender Clarke and inter-
national forward Willie
Rutherford were flown in on
loan from Croatia-Sydney,
and Essendon-Lions, as they
were known, finished sixth.

At the start of 1976, former
Croatia junior Branko Culina,
was transferred from St
Albans and Vrzina hailed the
youngster as a "new Vojtek".

Vrzina also negotiated the
purchase of dual Rothmans
Medallist John Gardiner for
\$8000 from George Cross. It
was the biggest sum yet paid
by a Metropolitan League
club.

Other newcomers were
Nick Kuzmanov and Dime
Petrovski from Yugal, Ken
Murphy and Craig Wallace
from the U.K., George Train



Committeemen celebrate Croatia's 1968 Ampol Cup triumph,
from left: Messrs Vojtek, Jakobovic, Perkic, Sivic, Bozic, Kiss
(coach), Vrzina, Begovic (president), Nakic, Mustapic.

Cont. page 11



Croatia's 1969 Dockerty Cup winners, standing from left: Gun: Voigt, Williams, Kiss (coach), Burin (manager), Davis, Bot, the masseur, J. Mackay, McArthur; front: Rahjer, Vojtek, McIntyre, Hargreaves.

Gardiner joins and then — State League!

From page 10

from Slavia, Ivan Grujic from Canberra and Drago Kraljina and Eddy Krnoevic from the Juventus juniors.

Thus Essendon finished third in the league and reached the semi-finals of the Dockerty Cup.

As a result of J.U.S.T., Hellas, Alexander and Mooroolbark leaving the State League to join the national league, four teams had to be promoted from the First Division to fill the vacancies.

Essendon was one of them. The others were Altona, Frankston and Green Gully-Ajax.

Essendon started 1977 by buying Billy Vojtek for \$6000 from Juventus and winning the Ampol Cup, beating George Cross in the final.

But it was a year of upheaval. The old committee stepped down and was replaced by a new committee, headed by president Ivan Luburic and manager Frank Burin.

Although they lured Vojtek and John Wallace from Hakoah, Essendon lost John Gardiner to Hellas, Grujic to Canberra City and Craig Wallace to Brisbane City.

The expensive purchase of defender Steve Kokoaka from Sunshine and signings John Kennedy and Howard Andrews from Hellas solved part of the problems, but more gaps had yet to be filled.

Burin therefore negotiated the signing of forward Brian Davidson from New Zealand

and George McMillan and Alan Kerr from Perth. In addition, former Croatia star Duncan McKay returned from Perth to coach the Essendon team, and full back Grant Smart was imported from Scotland.

It turned out to be a good season. Although the team finished seventh in the league, it reached the Dockerty Cup final where it was beaten on penalties by Juventus, and its reserves won the Armstrong Cup, with Silvano Francic scoring the goal that beat Hakoah 1-0 in the final.

Now called Essendon-Croatia, the club has started the season well by buying dynamic forward Tommy Cumming from Sunshine for \$6000.

However, it made a controversial decision in sacking coach McKay.

The new playing-coach is John Gardiner, who was bought back from Hellas for \$6000.

Billy Vojtek has recovered from an achilles tendon operation and should be fit to play by the start of the winter season.

John Kennedy is leaving, but Croatia will sign a new goalkeeper, Rodney Hattam, 20, from Croatia in Hobart, is expected to arrive this week. He had trial games here over the Christmas period and may prove the man Croatia is looking for.

One thing is certain: Croatia is aiming at the 1978 championship.

New ground top priority

Essendon-Croatia manager Frank Burin is upset that the club has lost the use of Montgomery Park in Essendon.

Croatia will play at Olympic Park this season.

"It appears that in most cases, councils are trying to push soccer out of their areas," he suggested.

"Our first priority must be to find good training and playing facilities," he added.

On more immediate aims, Burin said: "The club has a responsibility to its many supporters to be successful this season."

"At the beginning of last year we were unfortunate to lose John Gardiner and Ivan Grujic, which meant we had to start team-building again.



Frank Burin

good midfielder and a good goalkeeper.

"During the off-season we also followed a youth policy, which resulted in Croatia gaining the following young players — Vinko Pavlovic and Zvenko Jutisa from Green Gully, Philip Vuk from Broadmeadows, Josef Blaznik and Nick Tatro from George Cross and Orazio Makeševac and Joe Pavlekovic from Sunshine.

"We also have high hopes for reserve players Joe Timpano, Frank Francic and Silvano Francin.

"Our under 18s won the Cup and championship last season, and we may get two or three good senior players from that team."

The club's long-term aim, Burin added, was to get into the national league as soon as there is an opening.

MILESTONES

Milestones in the history of Croatia, Lions and Essendon-Croatia:

- 1958: Croatia second in Second Division North, promoted to First North.
- 1960: Lions win Second North and Second North Reserves, promoted.
- 1961: Lions win First North and First North Reserves, promoted to State League.
- 1962: Croatia wins First North, promoted to State League and amalgamates with Croat.
- 1963: Croatia relegated.
- 1964: Croatia wins First Division, promoted to State League.
- 1968: Croatia wins State League, Ampol Cup and Dockerty Cup, beaten by Hakoah-Sydney in Interstate Ampol Cup final. Jimmy Rooney of Lions with Victorian Argus Medal.
- 1969: Croatia wins Dockerty Cup.
- 1971: Croatia wins Ampol Cup, State League Cup; and Interstate Ampol Cup final. Lions relegated.
- 1972: Croatia loses Interstate Ampol Cup final to St. George, and at the end of the season, is expelled from the VSF.
- 1975: Croatians take over the Lions club.
- 1976: Essendon-Lions (Croatia) elected as one of four First Division clubs to fill State League vacancies caused by the departure of Hellas, J.U.S.T., Alexander and Mooroolbark to the national league.
- 1977: Essendon wins Ampol Cup.



Ray Wixey — played right back for Croatia for about four years.

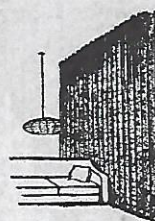


Essendon Croatia's under 9 team which won the Cup and championship last year, standing from left: Omisel (manager), Gagula, Bacak, Tadinac, Kolcog, Zeneral, Marko, Duvnjak, Ramljak (coach); front: Omisel, R. Ramljak, Galic, S. Ramljak, Visovic, Borrelli, Kelic.

May all the members of Croatia Soccer team have a successful 1978 season

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Brian Adlam — long-serving Croatia winger.

Best wishes to Croatia Soccer Club For the season 1978

From

KARLOVAC

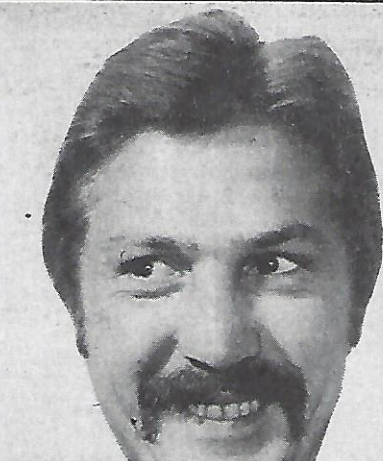
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**KNUT
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Greaves can start wheelchair soccer

Word has arrived that an Englishman, one Jimmy Greaves has contacted the Philips League and has graciously offered his services as a player.

It is, financially, a very viable proposition, for Mr. Greaves can come out at half price on his pension card.

I am not suggesting that age is or should be a barrier, but if the league is as desperate as to accept Mr. Greaves' offer, I can be of immense service with my vast contacts at the old people's home.

May I exhort the league to get in touch with Joe Matasala who used to double-date with Dame Nellie Melba and her mother.

And let's not overlook that famous neanderthal, Pete "Turn of the century" Mason, before his crutches wear out.

The league could enter into another field of entertainment along the lines of the Muhammad Ali versus the Japanese Sumo wrestler force.

We could set new highs in gate takings with exhibitions of people turning senile, or that great draw card — the wheezing and falling down event.

The Victorian Football League, ever trying to diversify, put on a real lulu on Saturday's World of Sport — handballing.

I sat amazed before the spectacle of half a dozen men per side, all looking like they could kick-start Leopard tanks, running around a basketball court punching the egg-ball to each other and scoring by hitting what appeared to be a bit of wood.

For those who may have seen this awe-inspiring piece of art, forgive me if my interpretation is not correct, for so amazed and agog was I, that I kept falling off the bar stool in fits of somnolence.

I mention this as an example of possible added sidelines for the league.

Hellas could challenge the mighty Demons or carnieblues to an instant death play-off of walking sticks at three paces.

Or wheelchair soccer... Or penalty kicking with plegm spitting.

These are just some of the endless possibilities of utilizing those players who would have, under the present system, retired from the game.

Now, when a club signs a player it will indeed be for life.

Clubs now without social establishment can save a

George Cross may miss out on semis

ESSENDON CROATIA 3 (Cumming, Krncevic, Kuzmanov) GEORGE CROSS 1 (Paparas) after extra time. Olympic Park, Saturday night.

CROATIA: Petrovski 7, Smart 8, Gardiner 6, Kokeka 7, Blaver 7, Andrews 7, Davidson 5 (Kuzmanov 65th min), Murphy 6, Culina 8, Krncevic 8 (Frain 85th min), Cumming 7.
GEORGE CROSS: Kaster 7, McConnell 6, Maitland 7, Webb 6, Barron 8, Kelly 7, Murphy 7, Cutajar 6, Mirak 6 (Midford 6, half-time Blisvic 60th min), Reed 6, Paparas 7.

There is no love lost between Croatia and George Cross and that is exactly how the game was played — no favors given or asked for. The first 10 minutes of the game were used by both teams to test each other out.

During these opening minutes players treated the ball like a hot potato, passing it before they were collected by a bruising tackle.

Ante Blaver let the Cross forwards know he meant business. Paul Murphy and Howard Andrews had a bumping duel in the middle of the park.

When the game settled down, Croatia looked impressive with Eddie Krncevic winning a lot of balls in the air up front.

However, it was George Cross that drew first blood. As the Essendon defence ran out, trying to catch a Cross forward offside, the ball was clipped through into space.

Jim Paparas ran onto the pass and skillfully lobbed the ball over the groping Dime Petrovski into the net.

The goal was slightly against the run of play as George had done little attacking, with Ken Reed kept quiet by Steve Kokeka and John Gardiner.

Croatia continued to pressure the George Cross back-four, with

Branko Culina causing many headaches. In the 25th minute, Culina knocked a ball to Krncevic who flicked it back into his path. A further exchange of passes between the two resulted in Culina cracking a shot just past the post. Derek Barron was solid at left back for George and Paparas and Murphy worked hard.

However, it was only a matter of time before Essendon would equalise.

Two minutes into the second half Culina hit the post and later it was only a great save by Lou Kaster from a close range shot by Krncevic which kept George's lead intact.

Reed became more active for George Cross, but the midfield lacked penetration without injured player-coach Billy Wilkinson.

With time ticking away, it looked like Cross was going to hold on and snatch victory.

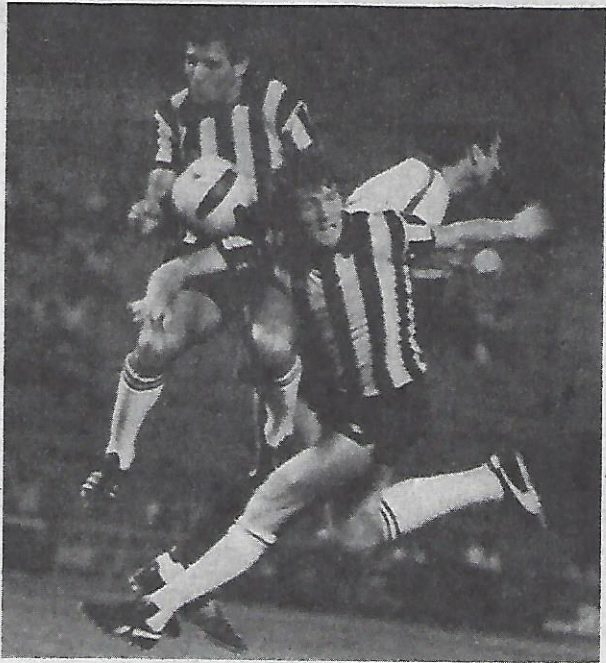
Tommy Cumming had other ideas. The pint-sized winger crept in unnoticed on the near post and headed home a low corner from Culina.

At the end of full-time, the score was 1-1 and extra time of two 10 minute halves was played.

The constant pressure applied for George and after five minutes of extra time, the result was a foregone conclusion.

Two goals — one a header by Krncevic and the other from a breakaway by Nick Kuzmanov — sank the State League champions and put a big dent in their hopes of getting into the semi-finals.

KYLE PATTERSON.



Juventus defenders Fausto Tarquinio (left) and Steve Walker crash into each other as well as sandwiching Gerry Tribuzzio of Ajax. Picture by SAM BELFONTE.

JUVENTUS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES

JUVENTUS 1 (Smith penalty 44th) GREEN GULLY AJAX 0.

JUVENTUS: Graham (injured, sub Harby 7, 10th min), Sabadini 6, Plister 6, Walker 6, Tarquinio 7, Sabidussi 7, Smith 5, Sannipoli 7, Watkins 8, Curcio 7, J. Luched 5.
AJAX: Denys 8, S. Klein 6, Patten 6, Donaldson 7, Cole 5, L. Thomson 6, Cook 5, J. Thompson 5, Segi 5, Tribuzzio 5, Perkin 7.

Juventus had to rely on a penalty for the third successive week when it beat Ajax 1-0 at Olympic Park last Friday.

The team's inability to score regular goals is reminiscent of its 1973 Ampol Cup campaign, before penalties were introduced to prevent draws.

In that campaign, Juventus topped its section by scoring only one goal.

Against Ajax it was, as usual, captain Charlie Smith who converted the penalty.

When Curcio fell, it was not the result of any foul committed by Donaldson who was doing no more than playing the ball.

The referee saw it differently, however, and pointed to the spot. Juventus should have won the game in a more respectable manner, for it had enough scoring chances.

Mick Watkins was extremely creative as usual, Tony Curcio did a lot of good running and mid-fielders Bruno Sabidussi and Lou Sannipoli delivered good, penetrating passes, and were always handy to have a go near goal.

Ajax fell down in midfield, with

the result that the forwards did not get adequate service. Only newcomer David Perkin was creative up front.

Peter Donaldson was good at centre back and Stan Klein was solid at right back, but Ajax's star was goalkeeper Lou Denys, the absolute master of his penalty area.

Denys showed his class early in the game when he came to the edge of the box to cut the angle for Smith who had been given a brilliant ball by Sannipoli.

Then Perkin and Watkins had narrow misses after going down their respective flanks with good runs.

Curcio headed wide after Watkins had cut the ball back for him, leaving the match scoreless at half-time.

Just after the break, John Patten fouled Curcio, and from the free kick, taken by Watkins, Sabidussi headed just wide.

Then Curcio put the ball into the net for Juventus, but Denys had been pushed and the goal was rightly disallowed.

After Smith had scored from the controversial penalty, Denys further ahead by saving a good shot by Sannipoli.

Gerry Tribuzzio had the best scoring chance of the game when he got the ball unopposed after a corner, but he missed from 15 metres.

Mike Harby, who had replaced injured Juventus goalkeeper Hugh Graham after only 10 minutes, stole some of the limelight from Denys when he made an uncanny save from a great shot by Les Thomson and in the last few moments, Tribuzzio came close with two good attempts.

— LAURIE SCHWAR

Over the hero

ALBION LEYLAND 2 (McCormack, D'Sylva) pens. Maikousis, McCormack, Greechan, Nisbet. v ALTONA CITY 2 (6. Train, Banagan) pens. Train, Ackers.

ALBION: Oliver 7, Nisbet 7, McCusky 6, Maikousis 7, Johnstone 6, Bentley 7, Greechan 5, D'Sylva 6, McCormack 6, Quinn 7, Lenders 8.
ALTONA: van der Poel 6, Plessa 6, Murray 6, Gramsbergen 7, Train 6, Davidson 6, Inis 5 (Waterman 5, 55th min), Banagan 6, Ignatidis 5 (Brill 85th min), Ackers 6, Taylor 6.

Jeff Oliver was the hero for Albion Leyland when he saved two spot kicks in the penalty showdown to give his team a win.

Oliver saved penalties by Altona's Bob Taylor and Jim Waterman.

For Leyland it was a change of luck. The last time it was involved in a penalty showdown, against Sunning in the opening round of the Ampol Cup, it came off second best.

The first half of the game was even but Altona was still doing a lot of ball-watching, a mistake which was costly the previous week against Makedonia.

Kit Greechan and Gordon

Bentley did a lot of running in midfield, but in the hot conditions they soon tired.

Hat-trick hero last week, Bill McCormack, was kept right out of the game by Rob Gramsbergen, who on a mastery display of light close-marking defence.

The score remained deadlocked at 0-0 until the 55th minute.

Jeff chased a through ball for Altona and the Albion players looked hopefully to the linesman for an offside flag.

Danny McCusky raced after Taylor, but his challenge was unfair according to the referee and a penalty was awarded.

George Train spotted the spot kick home to put Altona into the lead.

Altona answered the challenge and five minutes later was back on level terms.

Greechan's corner came off the bar and Mike D'Sylva forced it back towards goal where McCormack had an easy tap-in.

Altona looked more alive in the second half after coach Joe Wilson

had given the players a dressing down at the interval.

Altona went back into the lead 15 minutes from the end with a goal by Mick Banagan.

There was an element of luck involved as he mis-hit his shot and Oliver dived, expecting a full-blooded one, only to see the ball spin into the net out of his reach.

The game looked over but a brilliant goal by D'Sylva two minutes from the end necessitated extra time.

Altona had given away a throw-in near the corner flag, but Keith Murray headed clear.

The Altona defenders and keeper Hans van der Poel were helpless as D'Sylva caught the clearance on the volley and sent it like a rocket into the back of the net.

Altona earned a second chance and after the teams were still locked together at the end of extra time it was Jeff Oliver's brilliance between the sticks that gave Albion the two points.

They made it hard for themselves

SLAVIA 2 (Paton, M. O'Halloran) RINGWOOD CITY 1 (O'Callaghan). Olympic Park, Saturday night.

SLAVIA: Clarke 6, Thomson 6, Westley 6, Symington 7, Short 6, Randies 7, Bolton 8 (M. O'Halloran 6, half-time), Bennie 8, Paton 7, Gilder 6, Williams 6 (J. Train, 60th min.).
RINGWOOD: Wilding 5, Adams 6, Luyten 6, de Bruyckere 6, Verniers 6, Thom 7, Schott 5, Plumb 7, Tattersall 6 (Greenwald 55th min.), O'Callaghan 7, Kuenswald 5 (Pendry, 55th min.).

Slavia made five changes to a team after being thrashed by Albion Leyland the previous week.

In came Carl Gilder, John Paton, Frank Thomson, Barry Bolton and Tommy Randies, the Slavia coach.

They replaced Mike O'Halloran, Jim Train, Daryl Gooch, Les

Owens and Mick Habbins. The chopping and changing got Slavia its first win in this season's Ampol Cup series, but the overall performance of the team didn't improve greatly.

In fact, with an ounce of luck, Ringwood could have taken Slavia to extra time instead of going down through a goal late in the game.

Neither team had won or scored a goal before this match and the only significance of the result is that Ringwood will now most probably finish bottom of the Group B table.

Slavia still has problems. It missed some splendid chances to seal the game and its defence often lapped, letting the Ringwood forwards in when there should have been no danger.

Jim Williams and Steve Bennie were the main offenders when talking about wasted goalscoring opportunities.

They blazed shots over the bar when well placed to score, and coach Randies must have been particularly unimpressed with Williams' effort as he substituted him soon after he had fluffed a good chance to score.

Ringwood tried hard but it has a patchy team with too many non-contributors.

Paul Wilding, in the Ringwood goal, didn't help his team-mates with his distribution.

His kicking and throwing were erratic, and he looked more like a reserve keeper who had just come up into the team than a player who has national league experience.

Slavia's first goal was partly Wilding's fault. Jim Symington gave a good ball to John Paton, but Paton was near the goal-line with three defenders around him.

Somehow he managed to weave

his way around them and put the ball into the net from an impossible angle.

The defenders should have stopped him but even so, Wilding should have had the shot covered.

Ringwood twice had the ball scrambled off the line, but the trouble was entirely of the Slavia defenders' own making.

John O'Callaghan put himself into the fray for Ringwood, and the stocky forward came close when he followed up a shot which Peter Clarke had spilled.

It was O'Callaghan who equalised for Ringwood when he headed home from close range from a corner in the 60th minute.

With time ticking away both teams defended desperately, not wanting to give anything away so late in the game.

However, Mike O'Halloran shot Slavia into the lead with five minutes to go after some good work by Jim Train, making it three losses on end for Ringwood.

— Kyle Patterson

Standings

Ampol Cup standings:

SECTION A	W	L	F	A	P
Juventus	3	3	0	6	
Ess Cross	3	3	1	6	
Frankston	1	2	3	2	
Geo Cross	1	2	3	4	
GC-Ajax	1	2	2	4	
SECTION B	W	L	F	A	P
Makedonia	3	0	8	1	6

Albion	2	1	7	4
Sunning	2	1	4	3
Altona	1	2	3	2
Slavia	1	2	2	5
Ringwood	0	3	1	8

Top scorers: 5 McCormack (Albion), 3 McMillan (Mak), Smith (Juve), 2 Cumming (Ess Croatia), Banagan (Altona), Eddie (Frank), D. Nelson (Sunn), Perkin (Ajax), Adams (Mak).



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Albion matches

Albion Leyland and Sunshine City this week face games that will crucially affect their chances of reaching the Victorian Ampol Cup semi-finals.

Albion and Sunshine are first in line to join Makedonia as Group B semi-finalists.

Sunshine looks to have the better chance of victory, as it meets Slavia. Albion faces a tough task against Makedonia.

RINGWOOD v. ALTONA
(Olympic Park, Friday, 7.30 pm)

Albion is determined to wipe out the memory of two successive repeats, and should be against a Ringwood team that finally managed to score its first goal last week.

Ringwood coach Fred Bunce admits that his team is not yet fit.

Albion, on the other hand, did quite well in drawing 2-2 with Albion last week, before losing on penalties.

Albion has been struck scoring form just at the right time, and Bob Grambergen should have little problem keeping out Ringwood's weak forward line.

Our tip: ALBION.

ALBION LEYLAND v. MAKEDONIA
(Olympic Park, Friday 9 pm)

Albion is the surprise team of the Ampol Cup due to the good scoring feats of big Bill McCormick, who added another against Altona to bring his total to five in three games.

McCormick will tower above Makedonia centre backs Tony Brewerton and Paul Glascock, making him a big threat in the air.

Albion has other winners in Mike D'Sylva, Kili Green and George Makoulas and coach Tommy McMahon will be looking for big things from recruit Derek Doolan if he plays.

But whereas Albion has strength in attack and midfield, its defence may be good enough to stop George McMillan, Paul Hallam, Brian Flaherty and Makedonia's midfield raiders.

Our tip: MAKEDONIA.

SUNSHINE v. SLAVIA
(Olympic Park, Saturday 7.30 pm)

With Ray Pocock in tremendous form, Sunshine must be favored to win this game, but Slavia is somewhat of an unknown quantity because of its four new players.

One of them, John Paton, scored a goal last week against Ringwood.

Tommy Randless, the former Slavia star turned coach, made his comeback as a player last week and should make a big difference to the team.

However, it remains to be seen whether Slavia can improve enough to match Sunshine, which is in fine form.

Mike Dixey and Kaz Piotrowski are one of the top centre-back combinations in the State League, and

they should be able to hold even Steve Bonnie, who played well last week.

Our tip: SUNSHINE.

ESSENDON-CROATIA v. JUVENTUS
(Olympic Park, Saturday, 9 pm)

A victory to Juventus would assure the Italian club of a place in the final, but it may get there even if it loses on Saturday.

The defence of Serge Sabadin, Uli Pfeiffer, Steve Walker and Fausto Tarquinio is probably stronger than the others Croatia has so far encountered.

However, Juventus does not have a forward line to match that strong defence.

Perhaps Juventus would be better off playing Mick Watkins in the middle of the attack, and letting Tony Curcio go to the wing.

Curcio was a good winger at Albion, and Watkins is the only forward who looks good enough to score.

Yet any change will probably be in vain.

With Branko Culina firing in midfield, Grant Smart and Ante Blavzer better than ever in the full back positions and Eddy Krncic getting better with every game, Croatia is the team of the moment.

Our tip: CROATIA.

GREEN GULLY AJAX v. HAKOAH
(Green Gully Reserve, St. Albans, Sunday 1.30 pm)

There can be little doubt about the outcome of this match, after Hakoah's 6-0 thrashing by Frankston last week.

Ajax may not be quite as strong as Frankston, but certainly looks better than Hakoah.

Dave Perkins, Andy Segl and Gerry Tribuzio will prove too tricky for the Hakoah defence and should manage a respectable score if they get support from Nick Cook and Lee Thomson in midfield.

Our tip: AJAX.

FRANKSTON v. GEORGE CROSS
(Green Gully Reserve, Sunday 3 pm)

Frankston got the confidence it needed last week, and looks a good bet to beat George Cross on Sunday.

Keith Webster is in fine form and together with Jed Bannan and Alex Tulloch he will assure Frankston of control in midfield.

Sandy Irvine, Eric Gillespie, Vince Bannan and Ian Williamson look too strong for George Cross' attack, but Frankston's forwards will also get strong opposition from John Webb and Norm Mallard.

Our tip: FRANKSTON.

MAKEDONIA 1 (McMillan 43rd) SUNSHINE 1
(Pocock 42nd) after extra time. Makedonia won on penalties 17-16.

MAKEDONIA: Laumets 7, Trajkovski 6 (Hooper 6, 49th), Brewerton 6, Glascock 6, Peterson 6, McClymont 6, Leslie 6, Flaherty 7, Hallam 6.

SUNSHINE: Johnson 9, Muesel 6, Piotrowski 7, Dixey 7, Howe 6, McCarthy 6, R. Nelson 6, Bannan 6, McRobert 7 (Laird 80th), Pocock 9 (Gilmour 80th), D. Nelson 6.

Makedonia and Sunshine created an Ampol Cup record by shooting 36 penalties to break their 1-1 deadlock after extra time.

It was unfortunate that either team had to lose this way, for both had played enthusiastically, entertaining soccer in an extremely close match.

Makedonia coach Bill Dumbell said afterwards: "Sunshine is the best team we've played against so far, but I thought we should have wrapped up the game with one of our scoring chances."

Sunshine coach Bill Walsh was pleased with the performance of his team. "I still think we'll reach the final," he said.

Stars of the game were Sunshine goalkeeper Billy Johnson, who saved his team from defeat at least four times, and striker Ray Pocock, who scored the goal that put Sunshine ahead in the second half, and who was the focal point of all his team's attacks.

Makedonia won the penalties showdown 17-16 after goalkeeper Peter Laumets had saved a shot by Terry Bannan in the sudden-death period.

The regulations call for each team to shoot an initial five penalties.

This resulted in David Nelson, Robbie Nelson, Ray Pocock and Stewart Gilmour scoring for Sunshine, and Bill McClymont, Tom Brewerton, George McMillan and Hugh Hooper scoring for Makedonia.

Laumets saved Hugh Hooper's shot and Johnson saved an attempt by Paul Glascock.

Here's how the sudden-death shoot-out went, with Sunshine kicking first.

Kaz Piotrowski 5-4, Ljube Petrovski 5-5, Will Laing 6-5, Brian Flaherty 6-6, Bannan 7-6, Paul Hallam 7-7, Frank Muesel 8-6, Eric Leslie 8-6, Mike Dixey 9-8, T. Gilmour 9-9, David Nelson 10-9, McClymont 10-10, Robbie Nelson 11-10, Brewerton 11-11, Pocock 12-11, McClymont 12-12, Howe 13-12, Gary Hooper 13-13, Gilmour 14-13, Flaherty 14-14, Piotrowski 15-14, Petrovski 15-15, Laing 16-15, Hallam 16-16.

So the scores were level, after 34 shots, including the ones that had failed to score.

Terry Bannan stepped up to the penalty spot next, and Laumets pushed the shot past the post.

The delight of Makedonia's many supporters.

The game itself was a great spectacle for the fans.

Both teams had it everything they had. Play was fast, vigorous, end-to-end stuff.

Aware of the threat posed by Makedonia forwards George McMillan, Paul Hallam and Brian Flaherty, Sunshine played it extremely tight in defence, where Kaz Piotrowski and Mike Dixey were both towers of strength.

Only Flaherty managed to make enough room for himself to be creative, although McMillan was always dangerous from set pieces and scored a timely goal only a minute after Pocock had put Sunshine into the lead.

It was an opportunist goal, the ball coming to McMillan off a defender. Pocock's effort has been quite spectacular.

Running onto a through ball, he outpaced his opponent, to the edge of the penalty area, went around goalkeeper Laumets, evaded a tackle by Blason and shot into the net with defenders scrambling back onto the line in vain.

On Ampol Cup so far, Pocock is clearly the best striker in the league and deserves a place in the Victorian squad for the matches against Bobby Charlton's All-Stars, Derby County and Halkid Split.

He would have been even more dangerous with greater midfield support. Once again, the Sunshine midfielders were reluctant to come far enough forward.

On the other hand, Makedonia's Bill McClymont was always handy to threaten the Sunshine goal.

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Pripreme sluze za jecanje ekipa, a "plavinci" se dogodio obrnuto. Od prijateljske utakmice sa Aleksandrom, koja je obradovala navijace, JUST je odigrao jos pet do deset sa manjim klubovima, te njih afirmacije. Igrali su nedovoljno ostro da bi nadoknadili razliku u tehnici i taktnosti. Povredjeno je vise igrača, najteže Jim Krilar i Dragan Vasko. Bez ove dvojice i Denisa Boland, koji je dobio zuticu, JUST počinje novu sezonu Philips Nationalne Lige. U zadnjem trenutku, reseno je pitanje golmana. Boland ce zamieniti isto tako dobar, ut u veoma zabavan i popularan golman Hakoah Mike O'Hara. U zamenu za ovog vrhunog golmana Hakoah je dobio Steve Adamskisa i nesto gotovog novca.

Poslednjim trening utakmicu pred odlazak u Adelaide JUST je odigrao prošle nedelje protiv Melbourne/Hungarie, koji je dobio sa 4:1 (3:1). Na malom igralistu, koje ne zadovoljava ni juniorske potrebe, nije bilo moguce pratiti efikasnu igru, niti razvuci protivnika. Navala je ipak dobro funkcionisala, sutrala iz svake pozicije. Strelci: Ristovski 2, Iliovski 1, Kondeofos po jedan.

KOSARSKI REZULTAT
MAKEDONCI je trebalo mnogo

vise napora i sreće nego što se očekivalo protiv Sunshine City-a, koji je prvi povero sa 1:0 ali je Michael Bizar izjednačio. Posto ni producenti nile dno pobednika, pristupilo se izvođenju jedanaesteraca, koje se cipeo u nedogled. Na kraju su pobedili jaci zivci igrača Makedonije, koji su od 19 udaraca sa bele tacke iskoristili 18, jedan vise od protivnika i dobili sa rezultatom 19:18, sto vise odgovara kriketu, kosarski ili rukometu. Neobajmivno je zbog cega se igra produzetak i izvod jedanaesteri kada nema ispadanja, vec se igra za bodove.

I Essendonu je bilo potreban produzetak da bi pobedio George Crossa sa 3:1. Posle tri uzastopne pobede, Makedonija i hrvatski klub Essendon su najveci favoriti za osvajanje ovogodišnjeg Ampol Kupa OPROSTILI SE OD

CUMBERLAND KUPA
Prošle nedelje su ispala poslednja dva jugoslovenska kluba iz Cumberland Kupa. Hellas je pobedio drugi tim JUST-a sa 3:1 (2:0), zbog jake igre "plave" navale, koja nije znala da pogodi prazan gol u vise navrata. Uspeli su sudija zaborio od kad god je Hellas pogresio u svom kaznenom prostoru, pa je ostelo JUST-a za

ova cista jedanaesterica. U drugom poluvremenu je Hellas znalacki iskoristio svaku sansu i zaslužio se plasirao u grupu polufinale. Jedini gol za Just-a postigao je Vlatko Belic.

Fitzroy/Aleksandar je bio prejak za Carlton/Srbiju, koje je dan ranije igrala tesku utakmicu za Dockerty Cup. Aleksandar je pobedio sa 2:0, ali ova gola idu na duzu golmanu, koji je Anilova peta Carlton/Srbije. Ukoliko ima talentovan golman, koji su zastupili u svom klubu, u Carltonu imati priliku da se istaknu. Za sva obavestavanja mogla se obratiti odposlom preko dana treneru Ziki Karic na broj 699 3761.

DOCKERTY CUP
U Dockerty Kupu pretakmicenje su preživeli drugi tim JUST-a, Central Altona i Volvodina/Wiltona sa borbom na terenu, dok su Pegasus i Pascoe Vale/Pelister usli u 10. kolo bez borbe.

JUST-ov drugi tim je potpuno nadigrao Siemens, ali pobedu je izborio rezervni igrač Vasko Stojanovski dva minuta pre kraja, kome je to bio prvi sut na gol. Nekoliko minuta pre toga zamienio je povredjenog Petra Petrovskog. Ukoliko se ne popravi sutranje na gol, drugi tim nece daleko dogurati u Dockerty Kup. Iduce subote "plavi" igraju protiv drugog "plavina", Pascoe Vale/Pelistera. Tako cemo i u idućem kolu imati mnogo igrača u igri.

Ugledni golovi kola dobila je Volvodina/Wiltona, koja je zaslužio pobeda Industrijski tim LUNDEN sa 3:0 (2:0). Prvi gol je postigao Zoran Todovski u 10. minutu, drugi Slobodan Dimitrovski u 30. (taman je zamienio trenera Fred von Naja, koji je povredjen). Nakon rezultat je postao Martin Stresnjak u 65. minutu.

Sastav Volvodine: Stasilevski, Peska, Misko Kordanovski, Ljube Kolanovski, Janko Skenar (od 55. minute), Jack Kordanovski, Pavle Oravec, Andrije Stresnjak, Janko Cui, Paul Gallo, Zoran Todovski, F. von Naja (od 28. minute), Slobodan Dimitrovski, Martin Stresnjak.

Sastav Lunda: M. Karasov, P. Petrovski, J. Pavasovski, D. Angelovski, K. Projkovski, G. Stojanovski, C. Jasevski, M. Donevski, C. Trajkovski, R. Plovski, D. Cvetanovski. Rezerva: M. Nedelkovski.

Posle ravnopravne igre South Oakleigh je pobedio Carlton/Srbiju sa 2:1 (1:0), koja je završila sa deset igrača. Jedini gol je postigao Jovan Samanovski, koji je ujedno bio najbolji igrač svoga tima. U idućem kolu South Oakleigh igra protiv INTERA.

CENTRAL ALTONA/LUNDEN je nadigrao Chelsea i pobeda ga zaslužio sa 2:0 (1:0). Golove su postigli Jimmy Dervanovski u 35. i Ljube Gavazovski u 70. minutu. Svi su igrali dobro, tako da se sa velikim optimizmom ocekuje iduci susret sa Nunawading City.

Brighton je pobedio A.R. Splita 3:1 (3:0), koji se naglo popravio u drugom poluvremenu, ali nije mogao da spreči poraz.

TARAX je opet pao pod teretom godina. Dok je bilo snage u veteranima, protivnik nije znao gde je. U 20. minutu Verošlav Mladenovski je postigao klasičan gol, koji su sa loptom izveli na ovakvim utakmicama. Pocetkom drugog poluvremena Milos Adomovic je pogodio sa 2:0. Od tada Fernette Gully preuzima inicijativu, jer se Taraxovski tesko

krecu po nesnosnoj vrućini. Poraz toga sudija je ocigledno naklonjen protivniku, jer je bez velike nužde dosudio devet jedanaesteraca protiv Taraksa. Nostu poklonjeni udarci sa bele tacke, najvise greške odbrana pomogli su Fernette Gully-u da pobedi sa 4:2 (0:1).

Sastav Taraksa: Kazi, Fekete, R. Kreisinger, Milinov, Davis, Mladenovski, Kosovski, M. Kreisinger, Pantie, Todorovic, Karaga.

Zanimljivo je da su posle ove naporne utakmice neki Taraxovski nastavlili da igraju mali nogomet, dok jedanaesteraca nisu napustili. Nista nisu pomogli vragolje, koje su sa loptom izveli Brkic, Ibro Hadziabdic, Roman Petelin, Ljuba Pavlovic i drugi. Jer, je Gomerje cvor razorio junior JUST-a Branko Mitrovic. Postigao je pobednicki gol.

Iduce nedelje TARAX igra na Monash Univerzitetu prijateljsku utakmicu protiv Siemens. PEGASUS docekue Collier Watson sa Dock. Cup.

View from the junior ranks

BY LEIF JENSEN

Sport Expo — the facts

Seeing as everyone else has had his say about how Australian soccer missed out on promoting the game by not participating in the World Expo '78, I suppose I'd better have a go as well.

Knowing a few more facts about the exhibition than some people, let's get a couple of things straight. The Federation had an offer of a stand free of charge IF they hired another stand to the tune of \$3,500.

To put on a display and for someone to be in charge of these stands, would have cost another \$1500 so all-told it would have cost about \$5000. But what have we got to promote? Have we got just one personality in our game of soccer? We don't have a Ron Barassi, do we?

As for promoting the game, I would like to quote what an Australian bloke said to me when asked if he had ever been to a soccer match. His answer was: "Yeh mate, I went once because I had been watching the 'Big Match' on telly for a long time, but it didn't seem to be the same game that they were playing here. I never went again."

Sad isn't it?

Let's face a few facts about soccer: We don't have much to sell, and please remember we are talking about selling the game to Aussie Rules fans, so could you see yourself putting \$5000 in your pocket and pulling the chain? You couldn't do it could you? For that kind of money would it not be better to pay someone to visit four schools every week for a year, to tell and show our young boys what soccer is all about, or spend the money on good junior coaching in order to improve the standard of our game?

Just to finish off, did you notice who is running the show? If you did, let me ask you: **WHO DO YOU THINK WILL GET THE PROFITS** from this little venture?

WESTERN SUBURBS 3
(Moore, Patsakos, Skorsis) **v** **BELL PARK 2.**
Cumberland Cup.

WESTS: Kiss, Kypridis, Tsamblakis, Iakovidis (Karapanagiotidis, half-time), Jaworski, Czapanik (Kopel, half-time), Moore, Daglis (Patsakos, half-time), Skorsis, Christodoulou.

BELL PARK: Kutevich, King, Ristovski, Smilevski, Bassi, Cull, Vemuelin, Tafe, Peadie, Moore (Sent, 70th min.).

Western Suburbs made hard work of winning this Cumberland Cup match.

WESTS led 3-0 with 10 minutes of the game remaining, but Bell Park, which was down to 10 men after having Moore sent off, got back and grab two goals.

The game was delayed for 15 minutes because a car which was carrying three Western Suburbs players and the club secretary broke down on the way to Bell Park's ground in Geelong.

WESTS started the game without regular first-team players Con Karapanagiotidis, Kadic, Patsakos and George Theodoridis, but they were brought on when they arrived at half-time.

Western Suburbs played new signings Andy Czapanik and Marfan Jaworski, both from Polonia, for the first time.

Steve Moore hit the post twice in the first half before putting Western Suburbs into the lead in the 43rd minute with a 15-metre shot.

But to full strength for the second half, WESTS took command of the game and added two goals.

The first came from Tom Patsakos.

He took the goal well, but Bell Park thought he was offside. (Nunawading City thought he was offside, but he was given the red card.)

Chris Skorsis got the third in the 75th minute, but then WESTS relaxed.

Ortiz and Smilevski, who had played well for Bell Park the whole game, led the comeback which resulted in two goals.

WESTS players for Western Suburbs were Dimitrios Kypridis and Steve Moore.

Geoff Gerrish and Charlie Murphy, who too much for Box Hill, which played well below its capabilities.

Lowry roamed the midfield, spraying accurate long balls in all directions, while Pongho played a faultless game at centre back.

Box Hill put up an uncharacteristic performance, showing little fight or spirit.

Lowry's second goal, which was Croydron's third, was a gem. From 25 metres he lashed an unstoppable shot past Graham Morgan in the Box Hill goal.

Croydon looks set to take the Cumberland Cup, which has been Box Hill property for the past two seasons, but the Hillmen will not surrender so easily in the league.

MONASH UNIVERSITY 2
(Wong, Quang) **v** **MELBOURNE 1** (Johnson o.g.), **Cumberland Cup.**

MONASH: Dwyer, Johnson, Schauer (Linn, 85th min.), Walker, Grange, Greenwood, Quang, Nakagawa, Wong, D. King, M. King.

MELB: E. Toth, Vukovic, Gaszmar (Kozan, half-time), Kadic, Patsakos, Baker, Diamantaris, Csik, L. Toth, Csik, Jurina.

Monash University is fast becoming the giant killer of the Cumberland Cup.

The Fourth Division team proved that its win in the first round against Fernette Gully was no fluke when it defeated another Second Division club, Melbourne, in the second round.

Melbourne started brightly and its quick forwards put pressure on the Uni. goal.

Mike Grange, who was playing his first game for two years after being sidelined by a groin injury, was dominating at centre half for Monash and won every ball that came his way.

Chris Dwyer made a superb save in the 10th minute, pushing a blistering drive over the bar.

Monash suffered a set-back when Johnson fluffed a back pass and in a desperate attempt to clear the ball off the line had the misfortune to kick it into his own goal.

The University boys equalised in the 34th minute after Quang broke down the right and found Nakagawa. The Japanese dynamo's cross was inch perfect and found the head of Tony Wong, who nodded Monash back into the game.

A minute later Monash was in the lead.

Quang went on another one of his runs but this time he didn't let go of the ball until he side-footed it past Ernie Toth in the Melbourne goal.

The Monash players had their tails up, but were in for a shock, as a penalty was awarded 15 minutes into the second half for a foul on a Melbourne player.

The Monash players thought the foul was committed outside the area but in the end it didn't matter

as the penalty shot missed the target.

After a time running out, Melbourne bombarded the University goal in a desperate bid to get an equaliser.

Monash defended with equal determination and held on to its one-goal lead.

Monash now plays Doncaster Rovers in the semi-finals of Eastern season.

Cup scores
Cumberland
Cumberland Cup results were:
EAST: Doncaster Rovers 1 v Brighton 0, Box Hill 1 v Croydon 4, Park Rangers 2 v Nunawading 1, A.E.T., Monash University 2 v Melbourne 1, Williamstown, Pascoe Vale v J.U.S.T., Nunawading City 3 v Chelsea 1, Frankston Pines 1 v South Dandenong 1 (Frankston on penalties), Moorabbin 1 v Morwell Falcons 4, Springvale City 3 v Waverley City 1, West Bell Park 2 v Western Suburbs 3, J.U.S.T. 1 v South Melbourne Hellas 3, Kellor City 1 v University of Melb. 1.

NORTH — Collingwood City 5 v Fawkner 0, Essendon City 3 v Royal Park 0, A.E.T. Ess Brunswick 4 v Geelong 0, Carlton 0 v Fitzroy Alexander 2.

Dockerty
Dockerty Cup preliminary round results:
Crescent Utd. 4 v Monash (La Trar Valley) 1, Carri 1 v South Oakleigh 2, Springvale City 2 v Heidelberg 1, Sandringham 2 v Knox City 0, Ansett (Indust.) 0 v Dynamo (Indust.) 2, Cranbourne 4 v Clifton Hill 0, Sunbury Utd. 1 v Burnley 0, Richmond 7 v Malvern City 1, Absolut 2 v Cheltenham 3, Coburn 2 v Waverley City 3, Werribee 3 v Central City 2, Traralgon 4 v De la Salle (Indust.) 0, Ringwood Utd. 0 v Bell Park 4, Brighton 3 v A.R. Split 1, South Dandenong 0 v Kaysborough 4, Park Rangers 4 v Buller 1, Central Altone 2 v Chelsea 0, Tarax (Indust.) 2 v Fernette Gully 4, Hotham Utd. 2 v Ballarat 1, Karing 3 v Alexander 5, Doveton walkover Thornamston, Dandenong City 4 v South Yarra 1, Rosana 0 v Hawthorn 0, Hawkburn 3 v Clarinda 3 (Hawkburn on penalties), Wiltona 3 v Ilendon 0, Berwick 2 v Essendon City 3, Melton 1 v Moreland 3, Moe Utd. 1 v Pradhan City 4, McColl (Indust.) 0 v Royal Park 1, Monash Utd. 3 v Hellas 1, Hamlyn 0 v Broadmeadows City 1, Collingwood City 2 v Kellor City 1, Boronia 0 v Fawkner 8, Monnington 4 v Tessa Town 1, J.U.S.T. 1 v Siemens (Indust.) 0.

'These children have feelings'

Parents of at least eight young Box Hill players are angry and disappointed.

And the players themselves are doubting the wisdom of remaining in soccer.

One of the boys' mothers rang "Soccer Action" last week, on the verge of tears.

"My boy and other members of last year's Box Hill under 15B team have been training for the past month, looking forward to the new season," she said.

"On February 4 we paid the registration fees.

"The club was planning to run two under 16 teams — A and B.

"Last Wednesday night, the boys attended a meeting, at which they hoped to be told which team they would be in.

"Instead, they were told that there would be only one team, and eight of them were simply sent away.

"Apparently there is no room for them anymore.

"I'm sure that, with a bit of effort, a second team could have been assembled.

"It is not fair to the boys, who have put their heart and soul into soccer. Neither is it fair to the parents, who have co-operated with the club in every way.

"Don't they realise that they are dealing with children who have feelings?"

BOX HILL 1 (Taylor) v CROYDON CITY 4 (Lowroy 2, Hamilton pon., Murphy) **Cumberland Cup.**

BOX HILL: Morgan 5, Lapis 5 (Quindo 6, half-time), Tskildes 5, Corke 4, Patterson 5, Owen 5, Luchan 6, Wallydy 5, Taylor 4, Berardi 6, Tufield 7.

CROYDON: Edwards 6, Sinclair 7, Pongho 3, Ward 6, Kelly T. 6, Murphy 8, Kelly C. 7, Lowroy 9, Lynn 6, Gerrish 8, Hamilton 5.

The class of Pat Lowroy and Alan Pongho, aided by

Polish Cup to Polonia

Polonia won the annual Polish Cup at Lara, by beating Sydney of Geelong 5-2 in the final.

Ron Horlinkak scored a hat-trick, with the other two goals coming from Errol Aristodemou and Wally Klein.

Earlier in the series Polonia beat RACV on penalties after goals by Peter Czapanik (Polonia) and Edet Widera (RACV) had left the score level at 1-1.

The Marj Grey managed to beat Polonia's goalkeeper Zbig Szalinski, while Ron Horlinkak, Tom Kater, Fred Demitriou and Peter Czapanik all scored, to give Polonia a 4-1 advantage on penalties.

Polonia had also won the previous game on penalties, after holding Ardeer to a scoreless draw.

The penalty count was 5-4 in Polonia's favor, the successful scorers being Fred Demitriou, Peter Czapanik, Tom Kater, goalkeeper Cyril Sierokowski who played at left back, and new player George Pater, who's tipped to become Polonia's new president at the annual meeting on March 12.

Polonia's best players over the series were Peter Czapanik, Szalinski, Sierokowski and Horlinkak.

The team was: Szalinski, Menichelli, F. Demitriou, Kater (Steve Morris played in place of Kater in the final), Sierokowski, Czapanik, Pater, Demitriou, Horlinkak, W. Klein, Aristodemou.

Next round
Cumberland
The draw for regional semi-finals in the Cumberland Cup is: EAST: Doncaster Rovers v Monash University, Croydon City v Park Rangers.

Continued on Page 15

Not 'greedy'

Transfer - listed Western Suburbs full-back Mike Stogiannou is upset that he was called a "greedy player" by coach Tony Yzina in an article in "Soccer Action".

Stogiannou was demanding \$2,000 to resign with Wests, but he says this was to cover travel expenses and loss of overtime because of training, not because he was greedy.

Friendlies

The following junior teams are looking for friendly matches:

Richmond under 13s contact Gary Weiland (277 6647) after 8 pm.

Boronia under 10, 11, 12, 13, 16 — contact John Pot (729 9333).

Under 19s

Hakoah-St Kilda is seeking under 19 players and goalkeepers. Anyone interested should phone Tony Scalla on 44 6106.

Ontong to Brisbane

Paul Ontong (pictured) joins Barrie Fairbrother at Brisbane Lions this week.

He will play against Marconi at Perry Park, Brisbane on Sunday.

Ontong signed a two-year contract with Lions at the weekend.

His former club Mooroolbark will get a \$6000 transfer fee.

A brilliant winger or midfielder, Ontong had also been

Wishing Makedonia a most enjoyable season

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Fairbrother wants players' union

From page one

If Fairbrother succeeds in his action he hopes the money Lions paid into the trust can be recovered.

The problem is Fairbrother's contract with Mooroolbark. Written into the contract is a clause which says that Fairbrother becomes a free player once Brian Edgely, who coached Mooroolbark last year, leaves the club.

When Mooroolbark was kicked out of the PSL, Edgely left and his now coaching Victorian State League team Frankston City.

Fairbrother assumed that he was a free player and decided to join Brisbane Lions.

Mooroolbark argued that Edgely was still a member of the club and therefore Fairbrother was its player. It demanded \$10,000 for his transfer.

After weeks of haggling, the case went before the appeals board, which ruled in Fairbrother's favour.

The Executive reversal shocked Fairbrother and Lions.

"I'm stunned," he said. "It's an unprofessional attitude by the ASF. If you sign a contract you expect it to be honored."

Fairbrother

Fairbrother is bitterly disappointed by Mooroolbark's action.

"When I came out to help the club," he said, "I could have walked out three or four times last season because my contract was broken, but I didn't."

Fairbrother

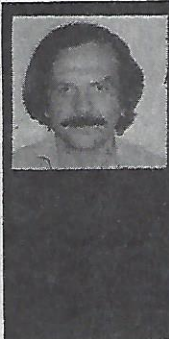
Barrie claimed the club didn't care about him.

"Malcolm Jones (former Mooroolbark secretary of Mooroolbark) was only worrying about the club re-couping the money it spent bringing

Fairbrother

Fairbrother is bitterly disappointed by Mooroolbark's action.

"When I came out to help the club," he said, "I could have walked out three or four times last season because my contract was broken, but I didn't."



PETER GEORGIU

of the
'Hellenic
Herald'

ΑΡΧΙΖΕΙ ΤΟ 2ο ΠΡΩΤΑΘΛΗΜΑ

Και με ένα εντυπωσιακό φινάλε των πολυπληθών αγώνων προετοιμασίας των ομάδων, τις έθνικές κατηγορίες οι μέρες που μας χωρίζουν από την έναρξη του πρωταθλήματος έγιναν λιγότερες και για την ακρίβεια τέσσερις.

Από αυτό το Σάββατο 14 ομάδες ρίχνονται στην άγρυπνη της κατάκτησης του τίτλου του δεύτερου εθνικού πρωταθλήματος. Η κάθε μία ανάλογα προετοιμασμένη ή όχι προετοιμασμένη.

Η μεγαλύτερη αντίδοσή για μία ομάδα της έθνικής κατηγορίας είναι το πρωτάθλημα. Η χειρότερη, είναι η τελευταία θέση στην βαθμολογική πίνακα και... τίποτα άλλο. Όπως ξέρετε υποβιβασμός δεν υπάρχει για την άρα και η τελευταία στην βαθμολογία ομάδα δεν έχει να χάσει και πολλά πράγματα.

Μία μόνο αλλαγή έγινε στην σύνθεση των ομάδων. Την θέση του Μορφολογικού του οποίου αποκρίθηκε λόγω χρεωκοπίας πήρε το Νιούκαστλ το οποίο ανέλαβε ως ένα ξεχωριστό Στέππ Λίγκ, της Βορείου ΝΝΟ.

Για το Νιούκαστλ, στην Βικτόρια του Λάιον, δεν έχουμε και πολλά πράγματα. Στην πραγματικότητα δεν έχουμε τίποτα κι αυτό διότι οι διοργανωτές του εθνικού πρωταθλήματος κρατούν οι κοινότητες των ομάδων να μην είναι καλύτερη, τις πληροφορίες για να μας κάνουν ένοχλη. Θα δοθεί όμως την ημέρα σε λίγο και θα γυάλουμε μόνοι μας συμπεράσματα και ίσως αυτό να είναι το καλύτερο.

Από τους αγώνες προετοιμασίας των ομάδων δεν πήραμε και τίποτα το ουσιώδες εκτός από την έκτη θέση στην βαθμολογία των ομάδων και ιδιαίτερα ο Μάγας, έδωσαν παραπάνω φιλικούς από ότι έπρεπε. Επίσης οι λεγόμενοι φιλικόι αγώνες δεν είχαν και το θάλαμα φιλικό χαρακτήρα. Κόκκινες κάρτες, τραυματισμοί και φανατισμός στην κερκίδα έδωσαν την εντύπωση ότι το πρωτάθλημα άρχισε πριν δύο μήνες. Άκόμη και οι διαπτώσεις το πήραν στο σοβαρό και οι ατυχήματα τους σε ορισμένες ανήλικες ήταν ανάλογα με την φαντασμοί που επικρατούσαν.

Είναι λοιπόν οι ομάδες έτοιμες για το πρωτάθλημα; Όσοι από όλη την προετοιμασία που έχουν κάνει: Καί πάει καλά συναντάμε σκοπέλες στο να δοθούν την απάντηση δική τους φιλικούς οι ομάδες δεν παρουσιάζουν τίποτα το ιδιαίτερο. Λίγοι -μετρούμενοι στα δάκτυλα του ενός εκατομμύριου- είναι οι νέοι παίκτες που έχουν ενσωματώσει τις ομάδες και μόνον ένα νέο όνομα είχαμε στην λίστα των προσηγοριών, το γνωστό δημοσιογράφου Τόμ Άντερσον, ο οποίος ανέλαβε στην Έλνινγκτον ομάδα του Σούντντ Όλντικ.

Σε γενικές γραμμές δεν μπορούμε να περιμένουμε τίποτα άλλο παρά ένα ποδόσφαιρο στην ίδια στάθμη που το άφησαμε πέρυσι.

Στους φιλικούς αγώνες οι ομάδες δεν έδειξαν ότι ανέβηκαν περισσότερο ποιοτικά απ' ότι πέρυσι. Ορισμένες μάλιστα έδειξαν ότι βρίσκονται στο ίδιο και άλλες σε χαμηλότερο επίπεδο.

Για την πρώτη ομάδα που θα λέγαμε ότι θα μπορούσε έφτασε να πρωταγωνιστήσει, ακόμη δε και να κερδίσει τίτλο, είναι η ομάδα της Έλνινγκτον. Η οποία παρουσιάζει με νέα πνοή και σύστημα στους φιλικούς αγώνες της.

Από τις υπόλοιπες Έλνινγκτον ομάδες μέχρι στιγμής δεν έχουμε δεί τίποτα το καινοφανή. Θα λέγαμε όμως ότι η Έλνινγκτον είναι καλύτερη εφόσον από ότι ήταν πέρυσι και με τις καταλλήλως προσδοκίες στην έναρξή της και με σωστό τρόπο παγνύει το πόδεμα και κινείται.

Ο Μάγας παρουσιάζει ο ίδιος οι παίκτες του έχουν παίζει μαζί σε όλα τα πενήντα πρωτάθλημα και αυτό είναι πλεονεκτήματα για μία ομάδα στην τομέα του συντονισμού της. Θα είναι και πάλι μία από τις πιο δυναμικές ομάδες της έθνικής κατηγορίας. Το Σούντντ Όλντικ έδειξε ότι θα είναι ακόμη πολύ δουλειά και ώριμες ανήλικες παίκτες.

Είναι φυσικά χωρίς αμφισβήτηση προβλεπόμενα ότι οι ομάδες των φιλικών αγώνων οι Έλνινγκτον ομάδες έδειξαν τις δυνατότητές τους.

Από τις υπόλοιπες ομάδες που είχαμε οι περυσινές δύο πρώτες, Χακά και Μορκόνη δείχνουν ότι πάλι έφτος θα είναι οι πρωταγωνιστές, ενώ η Σάλτ Τζάργκ παρουσιάζει βελτιωμένη. Δεν έχουμε δεί ακόμη τις υπόλοιπες ομάδες και οι αυτές θα γυάλουμε συμπεράσματα στο πρωτάθλημα.

Το Σάββατο λοιπόν 14 ομάδες θα αρχίσουν την άγρυπνη για την κατάκτηση του πρωταθλήματος και της δεύτερης άγκυρας. Και τ'όλο αυτό έτος ένας άναρχος πρωταθλητισμός, δεν υπάρχει πλέον από τα κεφάλια των συλλόγων ή τ'όσοι το υποβιβασμού.

Και αν θέλετε μία πρόχειρη πρόβλεψη για τους πρωταγωνιστές του φετινού εθνικού πρωταθλήματος κατά την γνώμη μου αυτό θα είναι οι Μορκόνη, Έλνινγκτον, Αλφάρεθ, Χακά και Σάλτ Τζάργκ.

Π. ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΥ

How they reached the finals

Mexico's qualifying matches:

CONCACAF extra preliminary matches: v USA

0-0, 3-0, v Canada 0-1, 0-0.

(Canada v USA: 1-1, 0-2).

Standings:

W D L F A P

Mexico 2 1 1 3 1 4

Canada 1 2 1 2 3 4

USA 1 2 1 3 4 4

CONCACAF Finals played

in Mexico:

October 9 in Mexico City:

MEXICO 4 (Rangel 3, Sanchez 1) (Auguste).

Mexico: Castrejon, Najera,

Ramos, Gomez, Ayala, Cuellar,

De la Torre, Chavez (Cardenas), Ortega, Jimenez (Rangel), Sanchez.

Haiti: Francillon, Jean Joseph,

Mathieu, Auguste, Nazaire (Romulus), Antoine (Labisiere), Dorsainville, Desir, Bayone, Sanon, Domingue.

Crowd: 108,000.

October 12 in Mexico City:

MEXICO 3 (Rangel 2, Cardenas 1) EL SALVADOR 1 (own goal).

Mexico: Pilar Reyes, Najera,

Ramos, Gomez, Ayala, Cuellar,

De la Torre, Cardenas (Real), Ortega (Isordia), Rangel, Sanchez.

El Salvador: Dessant, Jovel, Roelinos, Fagoaga,

Pena, Huezo, Rivera, Quinteros, R. Zapata, Rosas (Valdes), Gonzalez (Mejia).

Crowd: 108,000.

October 15 in Monterrey:

MEXICO 8 (Rangel, Isordia 2, Sanchez 2, Jimenez 2, Chavez) SURINAM 1 (Olimberg penalty).

Mexico: Pilar Reyes, Trujillo,

Ramos, Gomez, Ayala, Real, Guillen, Solis (Chavez), Isordia, Rangel (Jimenez), Sanchez.

Surinam: Lellis, Siedfried, Garden, Leeland, Broese van Groenou,

Olimberg, Zebeda (Castillon), Puerphart, Entingh (Rigter), Emanuelson, Schal.

October 19 in Mexico City:

MEXICO 2 (Ayala penalty, Rangel) GUATEMALA 1 (Mitrovich).

Mexico: Castrejon, Najera,

Ramos, Gomez, Ayala, De la Torre, Cardenas (Real), Cuellar,

Ortega, Rangel (Acceves), Sanchez.

Guatemala: Garcia, Carlos Perez (Rosotto), Monterroso,

Bohano, Hese Perez, Gomez, Alfaro, Anderson, Salguero, Mitrovich, Riveru.

Crowd: 80,000.

October 22 in Monterrey:

MEXICO 3 (Guzman 2, Sanchez) CANADA 1 (Parsons).

Mexico: Castrejon, Najera,

Tena, Guzman, Ayala, Cuellar,

De la Torre, Solis (Acceves), Jimenez, Isordia, Sanchez (Ortega).

Canada: Chursky, Iarusti, S. Lenarduzzi, Ayre, Twamley (McGrane), Bolitho, Bakic, Gant (Stewart), Roe, Parsons, Thompson.

Crowd: 55,000.

Final standings:

W D L F A P

Mexico 5 0 0 20 5 10

Haiti 2 3 1 6 7

Canada 1 2 1 7 8 5

El Salvador 2 1 2 8 9 5

Guatemala 1 1 3 8 10 3

Surinam 0 0 5 6 17 0

Mexico's previous appearances in the World Cup:

1930 (in Uruguay): Group One of finals: v France 1-4, v Chile 0-3, v Argentina 3-0.

Mexico used: Bonifiglio, Gutierrez, M. Rosas, F. Rosas, Sanchez, Amezcua, Perez, Carrero, Mejia, Ruiz, Lopez, Sota, Gayon, F. Gutierrez, Rodriguez, Olivares.

1934 (in Italy): qualifying games: v Cuba 3-2, 5-0, 4-1, v USA 2-4.

1938 (in France): did not compete.

1950 (in Brazil): qualifying games: v USA 6-0, 6-2; v Cuba 2-0, 3-0; Group One of finals: v Brazil 0-4, v Yugoslavia 1-4, v Sweden 1-2.

Mexico used: Carbajal, Zetter, Montemayor, Ruiz, Ochola, Roca, Septien, Ortiz, Cesarin, Perez, Velasquez, Gutierrez, Gomez, Flores, Naranjo, Guevara, Borbolla.

1954 (in Switzerland): qualifying games: v Haiti 8-0, 4-0; v USA 4-0, 3-1; Group One of finals: v Brazil 0-5, v France

Four of Mexico's stars, from left: Cuellar, Ortega, Rangel and Sanchez. Rangel scored six goals in the final CONCACAF qualifying tournament.

Groupings for the 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina this year:

GROUP ONE

Argentina

Italy

Hungary

France

GROUP TWO

West Germany

Poland

Mexico

Tunisia

GROUP THREE

Brazil

Sweden

Austria

Spain

GROUP FOUR

Holland

Scotland

Iran

Peru

Yugoslavs and Germans felt the Mexicans' bite

Anyone who doubts the ability of Mexico had better think again.

Last June, the Mexicans had a sensational 2-2 draw with West Germany at home, after leading 2-0.

Isordia and De la Torre scored the goals before two by Klaus Fischer saved face for the German team which featured all the big stars — Maier, Vogts, Bonhof, Folhe, Abramczak and the others.

Earlier in the year, Mexico had stunned the world by beating Yugoslavia 5-1! The Yugoslav team, although only an experimental second-string combination, was still a strong one, comprising stars like Bajevic, Hadzibabic, Katalinic and Rajkovic.

Mexico's goals in that game were scored by Chavez, Isordia, Jimenez, and Vasquez, the other being an own goal by Jelenovic.

Another major success was Mexico's 1-1 draw with Hungary in the quarter-finals of the 1950 World Cup.

Mexico may have cut it fine in winning its preliminary qualifying game against Canada and the USA only on goal average, but in the final qualifying series, held in Mexico, the home team won all five games for a goal average of 20.5.

Opponents in the final series were Haiti, which played in the World Cup in West Germany, Canada, El Salvador, Guatemala and Surinam.

Some of Mexico's best achievements in past World Cup finals have been: beating Czechoslovakia in Chile in 1962, and beating Belgium 1-0 to reach the quarter-finals of the 1970 tournament which was, of course, held in Mexico.

Eleven Australians will tell you exactly how skillful and how fast the Mexicans are.

Those 11, playing in the green and gold of Australia, lost 0-3 to Mexico at the Aztec Stadium, in the last



the last sixteen

Argentina '78

game of Australia's 1970 world tour.

Our team that day was: Jack Reilly, John Roche, Peter Wilson, Sandy Irvine, Col Curran (Dennis Yeager), Ray Richards, Johnny Warren, Jimmy Mackay, George Boles, Adrian Alston (John Dwyer), Mike Denton.

Mexico's most recent successes have come with the appointment of a new manager, Jose Antonio Roca, the former international who played in the 1950 World Cup in Brazil.

Roca, who has coached FC America and his present club Atletico Espanol, replaced Mexico's former manager Ignacio Trellez who was in charge during the preliminary tournament during which it drew 0-0 with USA in Los Angeles and 0-0 with Canada in Toluca.

Those results were clearly not good enough.

After having appeared in every World Cup final tournament since 1950, the Mexicans suffered a humiliating set-back in the 1973 qualifying rounds, during which they lost 0-4 to Trinidad, thus giving rival Haiti a berth in the finals.

But the Mexican Football Federation was determined to get its team back among the elite, so it advanced about \$170,000 to prepare its team and to stage the final CONCACAF play-offs.

This determination has paid off, if we are to believe the words of former German

international Sepp Piontek, now national coach of Haiti.

Piontek says: "Mexico plays modern and dynamic football which will surprise many teams in Argentina."

Coach Roca follows the traditional Mexican pattern of play: zonal defence, deliberate build-up and short passing.

He explains: "We Mexicans must play the way which suits our temperament. We can't copy other systems, like for instance the total football of Holland, but must fit the methods to our mentality. Otherwise we shall be running around like a Pekinese in a greyhound race."

Mexico's new star is 20-year-old Victor Rangel, in a qualifying match against Haiti, the Haitians were more than holding their own until Rangel came on for Alfredo Jimenez. The young striker justified his selection by quickly scoring a hat-trick.

Rangel scored a total of six goals in the tournament. However, he would be even more effective were he to have the support of Horacio Lopez Salgado, the feared goalscorer who unfortunately will probably not be present in Argentina.

Salgado had a car accident caused by drunkenness and so the Mexican Federation dismissed him from the national squad.

Alfredo "The Tank" Jimenez and free-scoring Isordia are other dangerous

forwards, and there's always the chance that Pedro Damian will come back. This brilliant striker played against the USA and Canada, but not in the final series.

Mexico's greatest ever international was goalkeeper Antonio Carbajal who has played in more World Cups than anyone else — 1950 in Brazil, 1954 in Switzerland, 1958 in Sweden, 1962 in Chile and 1966 in England.

Anyone who now plays for Mexico is inevitably compared with the great Carbajal, and that doesn't make the job any easier.

Francisco Castrejon is the current No. 1, with Pilar Reyes his deputy and Camacho No. 3 choice.

The defence is marshalled by Javier Guzman, 32, a veteran of the 1970 finals. He has fine positioning and perfect understanding with the other defenders. What's more, Guzman scored two of the goals in Mexico's 3-1 victory over Canada in the final qualifying series.

Mexico's international forwards, Carlos Vazquez Ayala are fast, tough and valuable when coming forward and in midfield Mexico has a tireless worker in Antonio de la Torre and a defensive type in Jose Luis Real.

However, there is no dominating midfielder with the personality to grab hold of a game and control it.

Mexico's international record for 1977 reads: 9 wins, 3 draws, 1 loss; 36-12 goals, 80.7% success rate.

The success rate is fifth in the world, behind Holland, Portugal, Iran, and Austria.

As for their chance in the 1978 World Cup, the Mexicans will clearly be struggling, for their opponents in Group Two include world champion West Germany and Poland.

Certainly Mexico will beat Tunisia, but so will the other two.

Continued from Page 14

me out. He never once said anything about the money the club owed me."

Fairbrother is concerned that other players may end up in a similar situation. "Australia needs a players' association," he said, "that can help and protect players."

Fairbrother said he would not play for any other club apart from Lions, which squashes rumours that Adelaide Juventus had paid Mooroolbark the \$10,000 and was preparing to sign the former Orient and Millwall striker.

Hopefully the problem can be resolved quickly, as Lions have a potential championship-winning team, boasting Scottish international Jim Hermiston and the talented Paul Ontong as well as Fairbrother.

— KYLE PATTERSON

Reached quarter-finals in 1970

2-3. Mexico used: Carbajal, Lopez, Gomez, Cardenas, Romo, Avalos, Torres, Naranjo, Lamadrid, Balcazar, Arrellano, Mota, Martinez.

1950 (in Sweden): qualifying games: v USA 6-0, 7-2; v Canada 3-0, 2-0; v Costa Rica 2-0, 1-1; Group Three of finals: v Sweden 0-3, v Wales 1-1, v Hungary 0-4.

Mexico used: Carbajal, Del Muro, Romo, Villegas, Portugal, Flores, Hernandez, Reyes, Calderon, Gutierrez, Sesma, Cardenas, Belmonte, Blanco, Gonzales, Sepulveda.

1962 (in Chile): qualifying games: v USA 3-3, 3-0; v Costa Rica 0-1, 4-1; v Dutch Antilles 7-0, 0-0; Group Three of finals: v Brazil 0-2, v Spain 0-1, v Czechoslovakia 3-1.

Mexico used: Carbajal, Del Muro, Sepulveda, Jauregui, Cardenas, Najera, Del Aguilera, Reyes, Hernandez, Jasso, Diaz, A. Hernandez.

1966 (in England): qualifying games: v Honduras 1-0, 3-0; v USA 2-2, 2-0; v Costa Rica 0-1, 1-0; v Jamaica 3-2, 8-0; Group One of finals: v France 1-1, v England 0-2, v Uruguay 0-0.

Mexico used: Calderon, Chaires, Pena, Nunez, Hernandez, Diaz, Mercado, Reyes, Fragozo, Padilla, Borja, Del Muro, Jauregui, Carbajal, Cisneros.

1970 (in Mexico): Group One of finals: v USSR 0-0, v El Salvador 4-0, v Belgium 1-0; quarter-finals: v Italy 1-4.

Mexico used: Calderon, Pena, Perez, Hernandez, Lopez, Vantolra, Guzman, Pulido, Velarde, Mangula, Valdivia, Fragozo, Gonzalez, Borja, Basaguren, Padilla, Diaz.

1974 (in West Germany): qualifying games: v Canada 1-0, 2-1; v USA 3-1, 2-1; v Guatemala 0-0; v Honduras 1-1; v Dutch Antilles 8-0; v Trinidad 0-4; v Haiti 1-0. FAILED TO QUALIFY.

